



UNION UCC

Congregational Church

UnionNews

Annual Report

June 2026

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Moderator's Report

My Dear Friends,

As I reflect on this past year, I thank Pastor Nora not only for her spiritual guidance, but also for her hand in the selection of our theme for this year "Repairers of the Breach". I am so grateful for her patience and sympathetic ear in learning our history and structure and her insightful, gentle way of offering ways to shape how we approach each other and the work we do together. She continues to assist us in living into our Behavioral Covenant building on all the work we have done in recent years.

We started the year with some difficulties filling the positions needed to make our church function efficiently. Throughout the year, our members were able to divide up the work and invite others to join with us as well. I am extremely grateful for those who stepped up mid-year to join ministry teams, task forces, serve hospitality, participate in listening circles, read in worship and so much more. This is why I continue to choose to be in community with you.

I think we have made some great strides in transparency and communication this year and I hope you feel the same. If you don't, I hope that you will let someone know - me, our new moderator, Pastor Nora, or really anyone in leadership. Our Council minutes (in draft form) are available shortly after the meeting each month via eNews and on the bulletin board. If you are looking for them, you should be able to find them. While I'm on the subject, a gentle reminder that our Council meetings are open to all and are made richer with more participation. *Cont. on pg 2*



During this Council year much of our time together was spent in preparation for our 150th anniversary, our impending partnership with Open Doors for Youth for transitional housing in the parsonage, and our capital campaign (with bat remediation, security updates, and Chancel access). Our illustrious historian, Bonnie Rule and her team helped us to celebrate our 150th Anniversary of the Church. In addition, our invaluable Centennial Society also celebrated their 150th Anniversary and we were treated recently to a worship service designed by them which extolled the women of the Bible and highlighted the amazing ministry and staggering fundraising efforts these women have contributed over the years.

As I wrap up my year as Interim Moderator of the Council, I am filled with hope for our future. As we settle into our time with Pastor Nora, I feel the spirit of cooperation, the willingness to learn new skills of collaboration, and the joy of emerging leaders willing to be vulnerable as we all figure out how to deepen our relationship in community together.

With gratitude,
Patti Kubicka

Pastor's Corner

Another year of collective ministry comes to an end, and what a year it has been! We've been focused on being "repairers of the breach," and also celebrated 150th years of ministry last fall, plus we got to honor our sister organization (Centennial Society)'s 150th anniversary too!

Along the way we've added a bunch of new members and seen some long-time members step up and lead in a new way. We endured Operation Metro Surge and turned our narthex into a packing ground for emergency food boxes for families affected. We said goodbye to our office worker, April, and installed a new access ramp for the chancel! And that's not even everything! There's more information about the ways our community has shown up for each other and our church in this report, and I pray you can find the time to sit with everything that's been going on.

As we look to move into summer, our focus on being repairers of the breach will begin to shift into our next season of ministry together:

"...on bedrock like this I will build my community,
and the jaws of death will not prevail against it."

-Matthew 16:18b

To that end, you'll see organic small group opportunities pop up after worship throughout the summer. Be sure to check the bulletinboard outside of fellowship hall each week to see what's going on and what's coming up the following week. May we continue building Christ's church together, through faith and compassion.

Rev. Nora P. Elliott



Music Ministry



Arabelle, Karen, and Madelynn Sherper Rohs, at Christmas

Our regular choirs are taking the summer off again, but if you want to make some music, please let me know!

I'm always interested in exploring new ways for to make music together with anyone interested.



Bell & Vocal Choirs

And if you're interested in learning how or bell choir makes such beautiful music, please let me know!

All the best,

Carson Schneider, Director of Music

Faith Formation

Our Sunday School curriculum, based off the series called "Godly Play," was redesigned to accomodate our younger children. Our time together includes a gathering time which usually introduces the theme of the lesson, a story, and a craft activity. We have been fortunate to have parents who are willing to participate in the faith education of their children. Bless you!

Rally Day started the year with a bouncy house, tie dying T-shirts, yard games, and popcorn. Families helped in lighting the candles for Advent. An Easter egg hunt was also a highlight. On Youth Sunday, Sophia Adams, enlightened us with her sermon.

Many others got to lead and craft a service that spoke to their lived experience, with Pastor Nora's guidance and support. Also, Bibles were given to 5th grade students upon graduating. All through the year, children participated in worship by reading the Call to Worship. We are so encouraged and excited about our growing attendance of young families. We have consistently averaged 7 students in Sunday School.

This year we were also fortunate to have the OWL (Our Whole Lives) Program. We partnered with Anoka UCC to offer this educational program. Pastor Nora, Bex Hibbert, and Desi Stumo were leaders, along with two from Anoka UCC. We are excited to see what the coming year will bring to our Faith Formation programs. More participants in teaching are always gifts to our ministry.

Thank you additional
Sunday School Leaders!

Tony Cangelo
Miranda Nixon
Christine Schmitt

2025-26 Members

Laura Elliott
Amanda Hooper
Ruth Johnson
Katie Richmond



OWL facilitators: Krystal, Andrea, Bex, & Desi with Pastor

Respectfully submitted by Ruth Johnson

Congregational Life

“Keeping busy this summer!”

Congregational Life is made up of 4 subcommittees

Congregational Care deals with sending cards, notes, prayer shawls, and assists with supporting those who have joys and life trials.

Hospitality and Fellowship helps organize fellowship hour, parishioner participation in games and holiday events..

Growth and Membership takes advantage of community and neighborhood activities which allows Union to “put a public face” on all the good work we do. Activities may include marching in parades, manning tables at festivals, assisting immigrant families, etc.

Prophetic Witness supports conference initiatives like being an LGBTQ congregation, mental health, assisting with environmental initiatives, etc. We have planned educational programming for Black Lives Matter, Immigration, and will address other learning opportunities. We support CAER and Open Doors for Youth. Earlier in 2026, we partnered with an Immigrant Aid organization to utilize our church to pack much needed bags of food for our immigrant neighbors in need during operation metro surge. We invite the congregation to assist us in all of our ongoing and future initiatives.

2025-2026 Members

Mary Wilson

Rylie Priolo

Desi Stumo

Laurie Lang

Frank Scouten

Darla Scouten

Carter Anderson



Jingle Bingo!

2025-2026 Highlights:

Welcoming Hospitality - Celebrate birthdays each month by serving birthday cake on the first Sunday of each month. Continued serving coffee and drinks at fellowship unless the group hosting wants to provide more treats in addition to or in place of cookies. We implemented a new sign up system for hospitality in attempts to tackle our issue of a lack of volunteers which has helped immensely but we still have many dates open for the upcoming year.

Prayer Shawl Ministry - Prayer shawls are made by anyone in the congregation and, when needed, a shawl is taken to someone in need of comforting. During 2025-2026 Four prayer shawls were given out.

Prayers for Joys and Concerns - A list from Sunday’s prayers for joy and concerns announced during the church service are posted in the prayer post each Monday. As a follow-up to these prayers/concerns/joys, cards of comfort, support, thanks or joy are sent. The group who sends these cards rotate between Mary Wilson, Beth Britt, and Sandy Stroebel. Jenny Sliker provides back-up as needed. From 2025 to 2026, 271 cards have been sent.

Congregational Life cont.

Mailing to Homebound – For those who have requested information from the church, including E-News, Prayer list and pastor’s sermon, copies are sent currently to 8 people weekly.

Activities Completed

- ❖ Monthly Birthday Celebration Cakes
- ❖ Christmas & Easter Ads were placed in Elk River Star Newspaper
- ❖ Sherburne/Wright County Pride
- ❖ Had a Special Donation for MAC-V that raised over \$1,000 for homeless Veterans
- ❖ Provided Games & Activities at the 150th Anniversary Event
- ❖ Hosted a School Supply Drive to collect supplies for local immigrant students
- ❖ Annual Jingle Bingo Event
- ❖ Started a Monthly Volunteer rotation at CAER Foodshelf every 2nd Wednesday of the Month
- ❖ Partnered with Immigrant Aid
- ❖ Spring Rummage Sale that raised over \$2,600 for the Capital Campaign
- ❖ Spring Park Clean Up Picnic
- ❖ Ongoing Donations Received for CAER and Open Doors For Youth
- ❖ Hosted a seminar for Seminary Sunday, from United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities
- ❖ Continued to support SARI in weekly protests at the Sherburne County Jail & protests at Rep. Emmer’s office.

Respectfully Submitted by Rylie Priolo on behalf of the Congregational Life Team



*Seminarian
Birdie Cunningham*



Fellowship Puzzle



Packing food for our neighbors

Trustees: Stewarding for our Financial Assets

Memorial Team

The Memorial Team receives, acknowledges and disburses gifts given in memory of and in honor of loved ones. It is our hope to make the congregation aware of ways to add to the beauty and nurturing of our faith community through donations made to various funds. These funds are available as resources by request from church committees.

We are grateful for all donations made. This past year (May 2025-April 2026) memorials and honorariums were received for:

*Tom Weiss
Patrick Donnelly
Nancy Scheerer
Jackie Schulein*

Memorials and Honorarium received (May 2025-April 2026) totaled \$675.

Disbursements were made for parsonage tree removal, handbell table and handbell hand chime, totaling \$1,347.50.

Memorial fund balances:

Checking \$ 1,124.54 | Savings \$ 7,780.55
Total \$ 8,905.09

Undesignated \$ 1,854.49

Faith Formation \$ 10.00

Worship & Arts \$ 340.00

Congregational Life \$ 1,690.43

Music \$ 4,305.17

Technology \$ 630.00

Pastoral Counseling \$ 75.00

Total \$ 8,905.09

For the Memorial Team: Ruth Johnson, Deb Kopperud, Arlo Schultz

Personnel Committee Report

There can be three members on the Personnel Committee, each with terms of two years, which can be renewed at the completion of the term. A member of the Personnel Committee attends monthly Trustee meetings.

It is the responsibility of the Personnel Committee to support and evaluate the paid staff of Union Church, update job descriptions, perform annual job performance reviews, hire non-clergy staff and offer exit interviews when needed. We meet with staff members when requested by the minister, the staff or members of the congregation.

Pam Woodruff and Jan Wick have been the members of the Personnel Committee.

Midyear Pam Woodruff was welcomed joining this committee. Pam also represents Personnel on the monthly Trustees meeting which meets virtually. Jan will be going off the committee at the completion of the current term. Cheryl Sill's term on the Personnel Committee officially ended last June, but she graciously continued serving into the beginning of the current term. Giuliana Beckwith resigned from the Personnel Committee during this past year. We do extend our appreciation for Cheryl and Giuliana's service. April Sunderstrom, our office administrator at Union Church, resigned in March. We are very appreciative of the work she did for Union Church. The Personnel Committee is in the process of posting the position of Office Manager for Union Church.

Respectfully submitted by Jan Wick, on behalf of the Personnel Committee

Property Manager

Capital Campaign Projects

In June, the church year began with the congregation establishing a three-year Capital Campaign to fund major property projects - bat remediation, fire panel replacement, chancel accessibility, and parking lot replacement. In January, a congregational vote amended the Capital Campaign to include security upgrades and to increase the funding goal.

Bat remediation in the sanctuary attic and bell tower began in September and final work on the bell tower will be completed by the end of May. The remediated areas were then cleaned and insulated. A potential fire risk was identified as the new insulation was adjacent to the metal casings of the halogen bulbs. This led to the halogen bulbs being replaced with LED bulbs, and an upgrade of the light switches to LED switches to enable optimal function of the sanctuary lighting.



Brothers Fire & Security replaced our **fire panel** in January. The new panel dramatically reduces the likelihood of any elevator malfunctions.

In July, the church council established a Chancel Access Task Force to evaluate **accessibility** options and make recommendations to the trustees and council. After meetings, research, estimates, approvals, and consultations with carpenters, architects, and the city building manager, decisions were made and work began. Hand railings were installed on the front chancel steps in November. In April, the chancel organ was moved to allow installation of a 21-

foot ramp in the vestry. The wooden ramp provides access to the chancel for those with walkers and wheelchairs and allows them to more fully participate in the life of the church. The historic chancel door was altered, repaired, painted, and installed for the diaconate closet. The ramp and railing design is consistent with the existing architecture and blends in beautifully. Has it always been there?



*Disability Minister,
Rev. Laura Cannada*



A **Security** Task Force was established by the council in September to develop recommendations for the congregational response to a fire, medical emergency, severe weather, and intruder. After meeting with police, fire, and security professionals, protocols were developed and presented to the trustees, council, and congregation. Installation locking door levers, steel doors, blinds, and exterior bushes, are in progress. A council decision on protocol implementation is pending.

Maintaining Our Assets

Capital Campaign Projects (Cont.)

The last project to be funded by our Capital Campaign is our parking lot. Approximately \$17,000 has been collected or pledged toward the estimated cost of \$50,000.

Under \$34,000 to go until it's a reality!



Church and parsonage care and maintenance is year-round. We are thankful for our custodians, Kyle and Stacy Stueve, and for the volunteers who help throughout the year. Throughout the mowing season, our volunteers maintained the church and parsonage grounds, and a second electric lawn mower was donated to the church.

In May, a maintenance agreement with Arctic Mechanical was signed for maintenance and servicing of the conditioning units, furnaces, and mini splits in the church and parsonage.

In June, a representative from the Sherburne Soil & Water Conservation District inspected the rain garden and swale and recommendations were provided. Mulch was removed from the swale and replaced with river rock to eliminate mulch dams obstructing waterflow to the sewer system.

Plaisted Companies notified us in July that they would no longer be offering snow removal services. Estimates were obtained and in August a contract was signed with Diamond Edge Contracting for snow removal and ice salting services.

The fall church and parsonage grounds clean-up was completed in November, and the black walnut tree was removed from the parsonage front yard.

Good-bye to the walnuts that were everywhere, that stained the sidewalks, and that required constant raking



The church continues to maintain a contract with Adam's Pest Control for the treatment of mice, ants, Asian beetles, boxelder bugs, spiders, and wasps. Vigilance and structural improvements have resulted in no evidence of a mouse presence in the last two years. Thanks to the whole congregation for minimizing the amount of mouse morsels left out for them!

The church phone system was upgraded to RingCentral, a digital service provided through Spectrum Charter. As a result, the office no longer maintains a landline and the new system is user-friendly for remote access and provides additional features not previously available.

Maintaining Our Assets (cont.)

In response to new state legislation phasing them out, the church is replacing fluorescent tubes with LEDs and disconnecting ballasts. This transition is expected to reduce energy costs over time.

No boiler issues occurred during the winter. Our custodian, Kyle Stueve, monitors and maintains the system diligently throughout the year.

A 16-foot A-frame ladder was purchased so light fixtures in our high ceilings can be safely accessed. The Montessori hallways were repaired and painted in late December.

Three unused pianos were donated to Keys 4/4 Kids, a nonprofit in New Brighton, providing music lessons and instruments to youth who are unable to afford them. In January, the Kimball upright piano, and Suzuki and Yamaha electric pianos, were picked up from the church by the non-profit.



In November, the existing AED expired and the Centennial Society generously donated a new AED - in honor and celebration of their 150th anniversary. This Automated External Defibrillator is housed in the AED case next to the elevator in the narthex. In January and February, twenty-seven congregants, and a couple of regular participants, completed CPR training in three different classes held in Fellowship Hall.

Looking Ahead

In October 2023, the congregation voted to keep the parsonage, renovate and rent it, and ultimately lease it to a tenant with a socially-just cause. Our lease with Open Doors for Youth begins July 1st and the parsonage will house youth in need of stable housing. This is the culmination of the work done by the congregation and the fantastic work done by Open Doors for Youth. Congratulations to Union UCC and Open Doors for Youth in realizing this dream! Stay tuned to learn how we can continue to support Open Door's for Youth's transitional housing, [The Next Door!](#)



Open Doors for Youth Staff w/ Pastor

The State of Minnesota may soon adopt legislation requiring that our elevator be modernized within five years of its passing. An estimate of \$130,000 was obtained for the elevator modernization. Our controller is thirty years old, parts are no longer available, and the phone is not ADA-compliant. Grants are being explored to help cover the costs.

*Respectfully submitted by Laurie Lang,
Property Manager*

Financial Secretary 2026 Annual Report

As a congregation we have been working on several capital projects to make improvements to our church building. It all started with the bats...but we have made significant progress thanks to everyone whether you were able to contribute or were part of the decision making process. Also a HUGE THANK YOU to our property manager Laurie Lang for taking charge on these projects and making sure they are done professionally while keeping the budget in mind. The only remaining project for collecting funds is the parking lot.

As of May 9, 2026 the following table represents the status of the contributions made to the capital campaign.

Unpledged Giving	\$58,246.00				
Pledged	\$23,052.00	Pledged Collected	\$12,577.00	Pledge Not Collected	\$10,475.00
Total	\$81,298.00				
Total Cash Received to date	\$70,823.00				
Designated	Unpledged Received	Pledged Not Received	Total		
Chancel	\$27,900.00	\$0.00	\$27,900.00		
Security Updates	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00		
Parking Lot	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00		
Fire Panel	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
Bat Mitigation	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		

Regarding stewardship and regular giving, as of May 17, 2026 we are at \$102,534 raised out of the \$208,346 pledged. We have collected \$5,946 in unpledged giving and \$96,588 of pledged giving.

Thank you to everyone who gives to our church with funds or talents to support its ministry objectives.

This next year represents my last as financial secretary. It would be wonderful to have a financial secretary in training working with me throughout the year to help them be successful as the financial secretary starting in June 2027. It would not be a large commitment (an hour or two per month on average), but it would show anyone interested it is not as hard to do as you might think.

Please reach out to me if you have any questions or would like more information.

*Respectfully submitted,
Joan Stevens, Financial Secretary*

Monetary Position – Expenses (Through April)

EXPENSES	April YTD	Budget	
Congreg. Life	859	5,910	15%
Faith Formation	159	1,520	10%
Ministl & Admin	49,465	154,510	32%
Parsonage expenses	1,676	4,320	39%
Property	53,602	80,646	66%
Worship	11,818	31,146	38%
TO Boiler Loan	5,851	17,514	33%
TOTAL EXPENSES	123,430	295,566	42%

YTD Cash Summary

Checking \$26,965
Savings \$21,732

Available Funds \$ 48,696

Major Creditors

Boiler Loan* \$ 43,910 Total Owed \$ 72,536
 MN UCC Conference \$ 2,800
 Other \$ 575
 Capital Camp. \$ 25,251

2026 Approved Budget

Income: \$ 268,965

Expenses: \$ 295,566

Nex: (26,601)

**Note that amount due to Boiler Loan in next 12 months is \$17,552*

Trustees Cont.

As I reflect on the past three years of my financial ministry as a part of the trustees committee, it is clear that we have navigated a period defined by both lean challenges and careful stewardship.

Despite the tight fiscal climate we encountered and are encountering, our foundation remains safe and relatively solid, due in large part to the dedicated leadership. One member of the church who exemplifies this leadership is Laurie Lang. As a faithful sojourner and guide, Laurie has played an instrumental role in facilitating a stable environment that allows us to look toward the



Laurie Lang

future with confidence. From my perspective, the church's financial health is not just a matter of spreadsheets, but a testament to this collective resilience and our shared investment in the mission of our church community and to a larger extent our community of Elk River. I've observed a consistent spirit of generosity that continues to sustain our daily operations and outreach, and while the more detailed information following this summary may offer a more granular look at our financial viability, I believe our current momentum provides a strong foundation for the deeper strategic discussions to continue the mission of this church.

*Submitted by Jim Petters, for the At-Large Members of Trustees:
Jim Petters, Frank Stouten, & Joel Stottrup*

Clerk Report

This past year I participated in all council meetings except one. Thank you to Desi Stumo for stepping in and being the clerk for the meeting, I greatly appreciate it! I did take notes for all of the congregational meetings.

We have had 7 members join the church this past year, with none removing their membership and no families transferring to another church.

This will be my last submission as clerk, and I thank everyone for their kind words over the years while I served our church in this role.

*Respectfully submitted,
Joan Stevens, Clerk*

Minutes recorded for congregation meetings
June 2025 to June 2026

- Annual Congregation meeting June 1, 2025
- Annual Financial Meeting on Jan 4, 2026
- Special Congregational meeting for Capital Campaign on Feb 15, 2026
- Annual Congregational meeting on Jun 7, 2026 (noting in annual report though it hasn't happened as of the writing of this report)

Church Council At-Large Members

At-large members are not part of a specific ministry team but reflect the interests and concerns of the congregation in general. Information may be solicited for a specific topic, but more often is done so informally by speaking with or listening to fellow parishioners.

Su Arnold
Marce Ediger
Karen Sherper Rohs

Worship & Arts



Our team is saying goodbye to longtime Diaconate members, Dave Foley and Joyce Hodge. They have both been huge assets during their time on the Diaconate. Our other members include Lisa Cawthra, Val Hansen, Kelli Lundquist, and Keith Stevens (chair). Additionally, under the Liturgical Arts umbrella, Heidi Steffens and Ann Hill have done a great job updating the sanctuary's decor in accordance with the seasons.

We continue to provide special services like the soup crawl on Ash Wednesday, which is always a highlight for us to be able to provide something the congregation enjoys.

There is nothing monumental on the horizon. With long-time members leaving the team and new members coming on, we are generally a well-oiled group. One main goal this year is revising the calendar we work from with more detail, so we know not just when we should be planning and hosting events, but when we need to start organizing and gathering any items needed ahead of time to be better prepared to serve.

Submitted by Keith Stevens

The Diaconate team coordinates the basics of our worship services. We find and schedule the Usher and Greeters for our services. We communicate with the Pastor and any guest speakers or pulpit supply to provide they have whatever we can provide any assistance they may need during the service. We provide the communion elements, and care for the communion silver, linens, candles, chalices and pitchers. We also manage the physical consumables in the sanctuary like pens and hand sanitizers in the pews. Additionally, we are responsible for opening the church before service, and checking the doors are secure during and after the service. After fellowship, we ensure all lights are off, all doors are closed, and all exterior doors are locked and secured.

Upcoming Fall Special Services & Communion

September 6 - Communion (Labor Day)

September 13, Rally Sunday - Communion

October 4 - World Communion Day

October 11, National Coming Out Day

November 1, All Saints - Communion & photos of loved ones who have passed

November 22, Hanging of the Greens - After worship

November 29, Advent Begins

December 6 - Formal Communion

December 24, Christmas Eve

4:00pm (Family Friendly Lessons & Carols)

7:00pm (Contemplative).



Centennial Society

Centennial Society was founded in January of 1876 by a group of devoted women who gathered to serve the needs of the community and Elk River UCC. The purpose remains the same today. There are currently 19 active members and 5 honorary members. The group meets for 9 months of the year including a July picnic, Christmas luncheon, and Spring potluck. For the reporting period meetings were led by Co-Presidents Bev Putnam and Beth Britt. The agenda for the meetings typically includes a devotion, review and approval of previous meeting notes, review of Treasurer's report and discussion of new business. During the same months, smaller groups (Ruth and Mary/Martha) meet for fellowship. Centennial is self-funded by personal donations and funds raised.

Yearly Highlights

- Befrienders memorial balance was transferred to Centennial because Befrienders is no longer active at UCC Elk River
- Centennial booklet/meeting schedule for September 2025 – August 2026 was created by Ruth Group and distributed (added one new member)
- Participated in Guardian Angels birthday party
- Planned and conducted fundraising bazaar in December including 250 Lefse packets (prepared by Centennial members and volunteers) and various baked goods sold

Donations made:

- o Pledge to Union UCC
- o Pledge to OCWM
- o Gifts to confirmands and high school graduates
- o Holiday gifts to staff members
- o Monetary gifts to Open Doors and CAER
- o Purchased Automated External Defibrillator (AED) for Union UCC in honor of Centennial's 150th birthday



- Planned and conducted 150th Centennial Birthday Celebration on May 3rd including developed and participated in church service, prepared and displayed informational posters, gifted corsages to members, and funded potluck luncheon
- Hosted Fellowship four times
- Served hospitality for Tom Weiss' funeral reception
- Considered proposal to reorganize Centennial as the Fifth Ministry Team of Union UCC Congregational Church and voted in favor of pursuing the change. Will follow up with Council.

Respectfully submitted, Pam Woodruff, Secretary

Historian

Over the past two years, the expected organization of the church records was largely set aside in preparation for The Union Church 150th Celebration of Organization in September 2025 as well as the official beginning date February 2, 2025. Meeting monthly beginning in August 2023, the Celebration Task Force members were Lisa Cawthra, Rev. Nora Elliott, Dave Foley, Jane Houlton, Carol Lloyd, Bonnie Rule, Marilyn Schroeder, Cheryl Sill and Joan Stevens.

Each ministry team was given its own month to visualize its mission. The creation of a wall display in the Fellowship Hall shows the changes within the church from the beginning years to the present.

The 150th Anniversary Banquet and Homecoming Celebration occurred on September 13 & 14, 2025. We greeted old friends and former members while enjoying a down-home chicken dinner. The program that followed, The Theology of Broadway, gave a taste of scripture combined with musical theatre. A silent auction supported our long-range plans to improve accessibility in our historic building. It was especially meaningful to welcome our former pastor, the Reverend Trish Greeves (1990-2006), back to our sanctuary. Her presence at the communion table was a reminder of commitment and legacy left to us.

The Historian shall collect and arrange the records of the church, see to their preservation and summarize the church's life to give identity to the church. S/he will be responsible for conveying an accurate and understandable picture of the church to future generations.



There is a saying "Everything old is new again". Reading through yellowed forgotten pages often gives details of the process and groundwork for the unknown future considerations. Small clues give insight into today's problematic issues providing appropriate remedies. This is a "passing of the torch," now having covered several generations. With each new ministry and each new member and each new officer, the church is new again. Remembering those who began with faith and vision so long ago, the torch is passed to another new generation.



Not many congregations can talk about TWO SESQUICENTENNIAL celebrations within one year. The Ladies' Centennial Society was organized on January 18, 1876, fulfilling a desire of some 20 women for social interaction and addressing needs of new community members. The founding members began to recognize their beginning activities expanded by financially supporting the furnishing of the new church building and purchase of the bell we hear each Sunday. Through the beginning years and beyond, the Society was approached to fund operational expenses within the church while continuing to support organized global missions and community requests. On May 3, 2026, it was a joy to celebrate the now many generations of women who have sustained so many facets of The Union Church community and beyond. The work of the Centennial women today continues to embrace the credo passed along by those many generations that preceded them:

Welcome, Community, Service, Spirituality, Legacy.

Respectfully submitted by Bonnie Rule

Union UCC By The Numbers

7

New Members

630+

Meals on Wheels
Delievered

271

Prayer Cards
Sent

\$81,298

Raised for
Capital Campaign

Upcoming Events

Summer Sermon Series: Scriptures Worth Writing Home About
Pastor Nora is inviting everyone to submit a scripture that has been impactful in their lives with a little bit about why it's impactful. She plans to uplift these throughout the summer.
Email her today: RevNora@ElkRiverUCC.org

Save The Date
Sept 13 - Oct 11
Choristers Returns
Children's Choir for
grades 3 - 8

UNION UCC Congregational Church



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