



April 2025 Newsletter

Come join us for Worship on Sunday mornings at 9 AM and virtually at uccmedford.org/media
510 E. Broadway Ave, Medford, WI 54451 715-748-3391 (church office)
Church website: www.uccmedford.org. Online worship ([Facebook live](#)) cuccofmedford@gmail.com
“Like” us on Facebook: Community United Church of Christ, Medford, Wisconsin

CUCC Church Council Meeting Minutes from March 13, 2025

Members present: Jerry P, Gloria C, Scott K, Pam P. Via Zoom: Pastor Tamara C, Mark D
Guest: Cindy K Absent: Dylan H

Meeting called to order at 6:14 pm by Council President Scott K.

Scott K gave a Prayer for Guidance

February Council Minutes : no discussion, Motion to approve February minutes made by Jerry P, seconded by Gloria C. Motion Approved

Treasurer's Report: no discussion, motion to Approve Treasurer's Report made by Gloria C, seconded by Pam P. Motion Approved

Group Reports:

Buildings and Grounds: Nothing new, sump pump is working. Committee is working on getting quotes for the bathroom and running electricity to the outside sign area.

Five Practices: Group hosted the Mardi Gras spaghetti dinner, \$744 in proceeds after expenses was given to Community Mission With Jesus. Group is providing Lenten devotional Services on Wed. at 5:30 pm. A soup Lunch is served at 4:30. There will be a Maundy Thurs potluck dinner at 4:30 before that service. Five practices & Sunday school are hosting the Easter Breakfast. It will be before service on Easter Morning with proceeds from a free will offering to go to the Christian Ed fund.

Christian Ed: Jam, Confirmation and Sunday School continue. Confirmands will be confirmed on May 4th

Candlelight Guild: Group meets next Tuesday. The Sanctuary clock is not working. It is being worked on. If it cannot be fixed, it will be replaced.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Tamara attended the North West Association meeting Via Zoom. Pastor prepared the Lenten Devotional service packet, Bible Study and Roundtable resources. Pastor attended a WISE Resources meeting and shared the Lenten Devotional Service packet with Pulpit Supply Pastors.

New Business

Hours of Church Coverage : Discussion on office hours and visitors. Our office staff hours are 9 am to 1 pm, Mon & Wed; 8 am to 10 am on Tues/Thurs. Cindy K said she does not stay if her work is done. It was noted that people do call and make appointments. It was suggested that volunteers could cover some office hours. The Church does receive shipments via FedEx and UPS that require a signature.

Pastors Contract: Pastors Contract is ready to be printed, signed and forwarded to Conference and Payroll.

Prevail CD: Prevail requires Specific Language for changes. A Motion was made to have Scott K, Jerry P and Cindy K be the signers on the Handicapped CD account at Prevail Bank by Gloria C, seconded by Pam P. Motion Approved

UCC Association Meeting: Pastor Tamara explained the changes coming for the statewide UCC Conference and the Association. Annual Conference Meeting will be in June.

Old Business

Weekly emails, website: Pam O. is updating the website, no weekly emails.

Janitorial payroll: John and Gail splitting those Duties, need to update I9 Forms

CUCC CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES continued — 3-13-2025

Quicken Issues: Cindy asked about reports, will do monthly and Quarterly when needed.

Budget process review: Discussion on moving group funds out of the General Fund and into savings accounts for the Church Groups to help clean up reports and make it easier to track income and expenses for everyone.

Garbage pickup: All arranged, will be paid quarterly.

Facility Use agreement: No changes needed. Hemer Funeral home bills the family if held here and compensates the Church after the service and lunch.

Sanitation of Church: Sanitation of Church continues

Closed Session: Council went into Closed Session at 6:50 PM and returned to open Session at 6:55 pm. No motions to record.

Other business: Community Mission With Jesus will be having a Brat Fry and a Sub Lunch for fundraisers. They are looking elsewhere for the brat fry but may have it here. The Sub Lunch will definitely be held here, they like our kitchen setup.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn at 6:56 pm by Gloria C, seconded by Mark D. Motion approved

Submitted by Scott K , Council Secretary

From Council President: Scott Knoff

Greetings,

if you were unable to attend the Annual Meeting, we reviewed the many Changes we have made since the year 2000. They include having invested in a new church building fund and a former member who gave a substantial trust to fund buildings and grounds projects. The Church has adopted Robert's Rules for meetings, began approving all annual reports by Groups and Committees, and adopted a standard financial report format. We are working on communication and resolving conflict. There are issues with our Quicken software we are working on. We recently discovered that we now need I-9 forms for our employees and that we have no garbage service for the church. We have a fairly new youth group and next year marks the Church's 125th anniversary.

The Annual Meeting is where we review reports on the last year and see what our Groups and Committees are planning for the coming year. These reports share our accomplishments and our plans for improving or updating our buildings, grounds and our outreach into the community. The Budget is projected expenses and projects for the coming year. We are working to change the Budget format to show Buildings and Grounds expenses separate from General Fund expenses. We are working in the office to streamline Quiken to make reports easier to read and understand.

As our membership has decreased, we have become closer as a Church community. We miss those unable to attend regular services. We have found ways to adapt and serve our church. We are still looking to fill Council members' seats, please consider helping. We have Council Members holding 2 officer positions.

Council President Scott Knoff

5 PRACTICES: Spring is in the air. We are seeing robins and other feathered friends return to our area. This time of year brings so much hope & promise for green yards, beautiful & bountiful gardens.

Lenten devotions & soup continue on Wednesday nights. Soup is served at 4:30 pm & we have a short devotional service at 5:30 pm. There is a potluck signup for dinner before the Maundy Thursday service. Good Friday service will be given by Pastor Tamara.

Easter morning at 7:30 to 8:30 am, 5 Practices will service 3 different egg bakes, fruit, coffee, milk & juice. A free will offering will support the Christian Education Fund.

A reminder that Scrip Cards are available as you purchase your Easter & everyday needs. The cards are purchased by the church at a discount. Members purchase them at face value & the Church receives the value of the discount. This is another way to support our church.

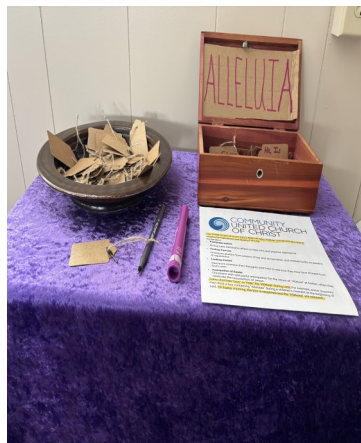
Watch for news of Pride Tribe events coming soon.

JAM Highlights: Our last session was Feb. 26th and it was a busy one. Opened with prayer & had snacks while we passed the “Pennie’s from heaven”. We also discussed the Lenten season. It was a nice night so we were able to go outside & burn palms. Each youth filled their own containers & filled them with palms until only ashes remained. They really enjoyed making the ashes as they added frankincense to each of their containers., we found out adding the oil also helped them burn better & also the most interesting smell. We spent the rest of the time preparing Lenten bags, cutting purple strips of fabric to remind us of lent and also prepared a box to put our “alleluias” in, not to be opened until Easter morning. “He is risen, He is risen indeed, ALLELUIA. We would like to thank Meriam for helping us with all these activities.

Our next JAM session is April 2nd. We will discuss if any youth would be available to help with any lent devotions or help with soup being served before devotion. We will update the “visible” calendar if that hasn’t already been done., as a reminder of church events. Meriam purchased some “lil Jesus’s” that she is sharing with the youth. We will have fun “hiding” them and if you find one, keep it as a reminder of Jesus or rehide for someone else to find. Thank you, Meriam, for helping with spreading His love for us.

One of our JAMMERS had a chance to enjoy a Florida sunset not too long ago and would like to share that. Never go too long without watching a sunset. Peaceful and grateful heart.

Submitted by Lori Grambort



Can you find Jesus? JAM will be hiding the small Jesus figures all around the church for you to find, so be sure to keep a watchful eye out for them.

The UCC does not sing “Alleluia” during Lent as a way to emphasize repentance & fasting from joy. Christians wait with joyful anticipation for the return of “Alleluia” at Easter, when they celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. Some churches symbolically “bury” or “hide” the “Alleluia” during Lent. We asked everyone to write “Alleluia” on a tag (with “He Is Risen” on the back side of the tag). The “Alleluia” box once filled will be closed and put away. It will be brought out on Easter morning and the “Alleluias” are released.

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Why **purple** for Lent? **Purple** is the color of royalty & reminds us of Jesus’s sovereignty (his supreme power & authority). **Purple** also symbolizes mourning/suffering as well as sin/confession. The **purple** strips of fabric (which could be hung somewhere as a reminder, perhaps a doorknob, backpack, or water bottle). are a reminder during Lent of Jesus suffering for each & everyone of us.

FAT TUESDAY/SPAGHETTI DINNER—MARCH 4, 2025

The CUCC 5 Practices group sponsored a spaghetti dinner for Mardi Gras/Fat Tuesday on 3-4-2025 at CUCC. Proceeds were given to the **Community Mission with Jesus** to help support their ongoing efforts to provide short-term assistance to people within our community and give them the hope and strength needed to overcome a challenging time in their life. Thank you to all who helped support this effort.



ASH WEDNESDAY—MARCH 5, 2025 AT CUCC



World Day of Prayer

CUCC was represented at World Day of Prayer 2025 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church this year by Jerry Goen Penney and Tammy Jensen. This year's program was sponsored by the Women of the Cook Islands. We enjoyed learning about the Cook Islands and representing our church in the community amongst the 5 other churches that participated (Holy Rosary Catholic, Medford United Methodist, St. Paul's Lutheran, Our Saviour's Lutheran and Good Shepherd Catholic). Our Saviour's Lutheran Church—Holway will host the 2026 World Day of Prayer on March 6, 2026, which will be sponsored by the Women of Nigeria and the theme will be based on "I will give you rest: come," (Matthew 11: 28—30).





CANDLE LIGHT GUILD NEWS

The Candlelight Guild met on Tuesday, March 18th. We had a very busy meeting with many plans before the summer break. We are planning to honor those being baptized, confirmed and a high school graduate with gifts in the next months. With the purchase of a new electric range, we have the old electric range for sale, the electric coil burners are in fair working condition and may be great for your hunting shack or canning use.

We are inviting those interested in purchasing an Easter Lily or Spring flower to decorate the sanctuary on Easter Sunday in honor of or in memory of a loved one. You may purchase this on your own and bring it to the church on Sunday, April 13th or during office hours Monday and Wednesday 9-1, at the time of Maundy Thursday service or Good Friday service- the week before Easter. Please place a note on the plant, who it is in honor of or in memory of and from whom it is from and this will be posted in the Easter Sunday bulletin.



The next meeting of the Candlelight Guild will be held on Wednesday, April 16th at 5:30. PLEASE NOTE- this is not the usual first Tuesday of the month, it is a one time change due to scheduling conflicts. Please join us!



Pastor Tamara



Pastor Christopher



Pastor Mary



Pastor Jill



Becky Beebe



Jodi Elliot



Darlene Wellner

Wisc. UCC Northwest Conference met at St. Paul's UCC in Wausau on Saturday, 3-8-2025 (see photos). The meeting was to learn more about the restructuring of the Conference. CUCC Council President, Scott Knoff and Council Financial Sec., Jerry Goen Penney, attended in person and Pastor Tamara Dassow Cox attended via Zoom link.



Sunday School participants working on their latest projects. Be sure to stop downstairs & check out their project board for the year.



Scrip cards

Please give the office a call at 715-748-3391 to make arrangements for pick up. Thank you in advance. Shopping? Why not use SCRIP? SCRIP cards make nice gifts. Our Church gets a percentage of the cost of each SCRIP card purchased. Cards are available from: County Market, Kwik-Trip, Arby's, Subway, Amazon, Fourmens, Fleet farm, McDonalds, Sam's Club & Walmart.



CUCC FINANCES:

As of March 25, 2025

Income \$ 4,495.00

Expenses \$ 6,000.00

April 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 J.A.M. 3:30–5 pm Soup & Lenten devotion 5:30 pm	3	4	5
6 Worship with Communion 9 am Sunday School during service Pastor Tamara Dassow Cox Bible Study after service	7	8	9 Confirmation 3:30–5 pm Soup & Lenten devotion 5:30 pm	10 Council meeting 6:15 pm	11	12
13  Palm Sunday Worship 9 am Sunday School during service Pastor Jill Christopherson	14	15	16 J.A.M. 3:30–5 pm Candle Light Guild Mtg 5:30 pm 	17  Maundy Thursday Potluck 4:30 pm & Devotion 5:30 pm	18  GOOD FRIDAY Devotion 5:30 pm	19
20  EASTER Christ Victorious, Rising Glorious, ALLELUIA! Worship 9 am Pastor Tamara Dassow Cox Roundtable discussion after service	21	22  Earth Day	23 Confirmation 3:30–5 pm	24	25	26
27 Worship 9 am with Sunday School during service Pastor Christopher Ewan	28	29	30 J.A.M. 3:30–5 pm			