



United Church of Christ

The Church Messenger

October 2025

Pastor Karen
Griswold



Encouraging Word

Isaiah 55:12

"For you shall go out
in joy and be led forth
in peace; the mountains
and the hills before
you shall break forth
into singing, and all
the trees of the field
shall clap their hands."



AS OCTOBER BEGINS

This October, as the seasons shift and the world changes its vibrant hues, we are reminded of God's steadfast faithfulness. Just as the earth prepares for a time of rest and renewal, we are called to release the old and embrace the new possibilities God has for us. Let us find inspiration in the beauty around us, seeing God's artistry in the golden light and crisp air. This month, let's reflect on the profound peace that comes from trusting in the Creator who holds all things in his righteous hand.

The gentle transition of autumn encourages us to slow down and listen for the quiet whispers of the Holy Spirit. As we navigate our daily lives, let us seek moments of stillness to draw closer to God and to one another. There is great strength in our connection as a Church family, and October is an ideal time to gather, give thanks, and find warmth in the love we share. Let's support and encourage one another on our faith journeys, embracing the change within and around us with hope and joy.

Just as harvest is gathered and celebrated, this month, we celebrate the abundant blessings in our lives and the kingdom work we are called to do. Let us be a source of light and a sign of God's grace in our community, inviting others to share in the harvest of joyful work. By focusing on gratitude and generosity, we can make this season truly special, trusting that God will finish the good work he started in us. May your October be filled with God's favor, and may we continue to grow more deeply in our love for him and for those around us.

Serving for October

Nursery

Oct 5
Oct 12
Oct 19
Oct 26



Sound

Oct 5 Elisa Lash
Oct 12 Ed Armentrout
Oct 19 Ray Etgen
Oct 26 Dennis McIntosh



Greeting & Announcements
Phil Etgen
Screens
Ed Armentrout / Kaylee Powell
Videotaping
Jim Hoffman / Bec Smith

Young People's Moment

Oct 5 Scott Griswold
Oct 12 Penny Higgins
Oct 19 Nancy Hamilton
Oct 26 Pastor Karen

Junior Church

Oct 5 Scott Griswold
Oct 12 Brandy Powell
Oct 19
Oct 26 Brandy Powell

**We all serve with our presence in
worship. Please join us this Sunday.**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Oct 2 10:00 am Missionary Aide Meeting & luncheon
 Oct 5 8:30 am Deacons Meeting
 Sacrament of Holy Communion
 Finance Team Meeting
 2:30-5:00 pm Scout meetings
 Oct 7 9:30 am Tuesday Mornings
 6:00 pm Board Meeting
 Oct 12 Congregational Meeting after Church
 2:30-5:00 pm Scout Meetings
 5:00-7:00 pm United In Christ - youth
 Oct 13 6:00 pm Pastoral Relations Team Meeting
 Oct 14 9:30 am Tuesday Mornings
 Oct 15 6:00 pm Consider This - discussion
 Oct 19 9:00 - 10:00 am Unity & In Unison - youth
 Newsletter deadline
 Education Team Meeting after Church
 2:30-5:00 pm Scout Meetings
 Oct 21 9:30 am Tuesday Mornings
 Oct 22 6:00 pm Consider This - discussion
 Oct 23 5:00 - 7:00 pm Spooktacular - downtown WL
 Oct 26 Worship & Property Team Meetings
 after Church
 2:30-5:00 pm Scout Meetings
 Oct 28 9:30 am Tuesday Mornings
 Oct 29 6:00 pm Consider This - discussion



- Oct 1 Steve & Lisa Tracey
 Oct 4 John & Barbara Edwards
 Oct 6 Lowell & Sandy Buck
 Oct 7 Rick & Renay Fullerton
 Oct 9 Kevin & Cindy Williams
 Oct 12 Luke & Cassidy Ridenour
 Oct 14 Matt & Megan Hunter
 Oct 19 Steven & Nichole Klingler
 Oct 21 Gabe & Autumn Swartz

Happy Birthday



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|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Oct 3 Bob McClure | Oct 14 Sandy Buck |
| Oct 3 Barb Trimble | Oct 15 Dennis McIntosh |
| Oct 4 Pete Crowe | Oct 15 Kate Hemphill |
| Oct 6 Brevin Louden | Oct 20 Haddie Stidham |
| Oct 9 Kayla Tracey | Oct 26 Morgan Sullivan |
| Oct 12 Gina Buroker | Oct 26 Charlie Swartz |
| Oct 12 Jill Hoffman | Oct 17 Deanna McIntosh |
| Oct 14 Analiese Henry | Oct 30 Whitney Etgen |



- | | |
|----------------|----------------------------|
| Lucille Burden | luburden@yahoo.com |
| Kathy Etgen | 8ketgens@gmail.com |
| Phil Etgen | etgen645@hotmail.com |
| Lauren Flora | lufo1983@gmail.com |
| Penny Higgins | aphiggins89@gmail.com |
| Julie McIntosh | mcintoshja2010@hotmail.com |
| Rob Painter | rdpainter@centurylink.net |
| Darry Plank | planda31@yahoo.com |
| Andy Smith | ajsmith3768@yahoo.com |
| Julie Wilcox | zechy65@gmail.com |
| Tim Wilcox | zechy65@gmail.com |
| Bill Warner | wswarner60@gmail.com |



"A healthy attitude is contagious but don't wait to catch it from others. Be a carrier." Tom Stoppard

For the Journey a note from Pastor Karen

For the Journey...



Dear Friends,

Fall is in the air! The nights are cooler, the leaves are changing, and fall events are in full swing! As one season rolls into the next, we prepare ourselves for what is to come. Change is something that remains constant in our lives whether good or not so good, change is always in Motion.

There has been a big change happening at the parsonage! A bird dropped a seed in the front flower bed. At first, I thought it was a sunflower sprout, so I said to Scott "let's let it grow." We soon discovered that it was not a sunflower seed growing but a pumpkin seed. Now there is a large vine growing which has produced two huge pumpkins.

Life is often like those seeds...sometimes we get what we do not expect. We can do our best to make plans, but sometimes best laid plans get interrupted. Again, sometimes for the good and sometimes for the not so good.

This is when our faith can make a difference. This is when a community of faith can make a difference. When we share in our joys and sorrows, when folks feel acceptance and belonging God's healing peace, mercy, and love have the opportunity to grow with wild abandon. These are the intentional seeds that Jesus planted. As his disciples we are invited to keep planting, weeding, watering, and nurturing these seeds of hope! Hope is what our hurting world needs. Let us continue to boldly tell the story of Love...

"Gather round I have a story to tell. Of one who reached inside himself and took a handful of love like a pile of stardust and said: this is for you—it is all you need—it is all you will ever need—there is enough here to change the whole world---take it. Many laughed at him, mocked him, and ignored the invitation. But some dared to take it and those who did noticed something about this love—they found they could do what the gift giver could do---they could stand with the lost, welcome the traveler, eat with the hungry---they themselves doing what the man first did to them---give something of themselves to others—they became like the man offering themselves and as they offered themselves others took the invitation---and many still do—and many still trust it is enough to change the world. "

-A Love Story written by Roddy Hamilton.

Journey well beloved, journey well,

Pastor Karen



CONFIRMATION CLASS



We are so happy to have 12 of our young people attending our Confirmation Classes. Please continue to hold each of them and their families in your thoughts and prayers as they complete these classes. Pastor Karen is working hard to give them knowledge and understanding to grow in their faith as they walk their individual faith paths.

The envelopes on the bulletin board are for you to drop notes of encouragement and love for our Confirmands. We hope you will take a minute to show our young people that you care about them and this journey.



Ongoing Prayer List

If you have any updates to the prayer list, contact
Kathy Etgen 937-597-8260 or office@wlucc.org.

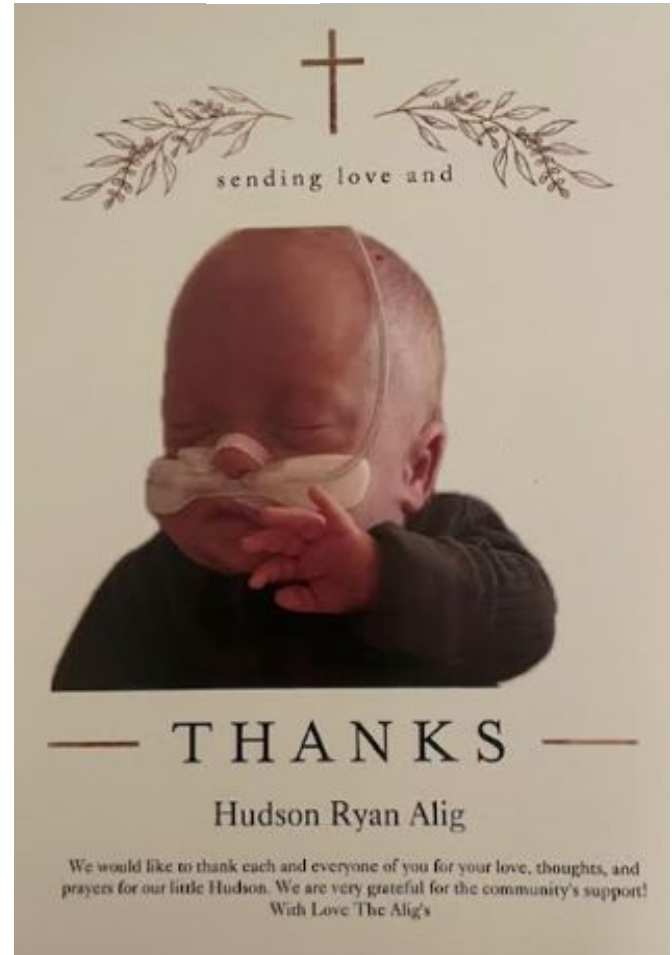
Those Dealing with Ongoing Illness or Difficulties

Klara Pedersen	Rick Fullerton	Jamie Thomas
Chuck Buck	Vicki Lingrell	Trudy Bradley
Dennis Plank	Michelle Moffitt	Mike & Sandy
Carol Edgecomb	Christina Porter	Alycia Brehm
Marcus Taylor	Lakyn Parrish	
Andy Smith (Trimble's grandson)		

Our Service Men & Women

Cody Flora	Skyler Heilman	Zech Wilcox
Michael Ropp*	Corey Hartzler	Tracy Harr
Nick Burden	Samantha Ropp*	Darren McIntosh
James Powell		

* Denotes Reserves



A Word from Missionary Aide

MANNA FROM HEAVEN.

It has begun, nature's panoramic technicolor show for our viewing pleasure. So much to see, so little time, unless . . . we make time to stop and see, really "see" and rest in the beautiful and sometimes breathtaking gift that is ours to enjoy, free of charge every year in the fall. Nature requires nurture and for that, nature depends on all living creatures (including humanity) to tend the earthly garden. Providing helpful information, Alan Kauffman from Heaven's Dew, will be our program speaker on Thursday, October 2nd. A potluck lunch follows the 10:00 am meeting. All are welcome.

"A good life is when you assume nothing, do more, smile often, dream big, laugh a lot and realize how blessed you are for what you have." Zig Ziglar



Missionary Aide News



President Betty opened the September meeting with a quote. Sandra had devotions, she chose "The Fig Tree", a prominent tree mentioned often in the Bible, this is from our book "In the Garden" - that we will be using for this year, this goes along with our theme for the year, "Building Nests".

Betty introduced our guest speaker, Kathy Bow, chairwoman of Habit for Humanity/Restore, Logan Co. Habitat was started in 1976 - every person deserves decent housing. Habitat was started in Logan County by Dr. Roger & Rachael Kauffman. 31 homes have been built in Logan County. Kathy oversees most aspects of Habitat & Restore, building of houses, insurance, financing. Restore sells high quality used furniture, household items, etc. This money is used to help finance building of homes and furnishing them. Homeowners have to work off a portion of the cost of home - they have a 30 year mortgage, no interest. Volunteers are always welcome.

Lauren & Sandra led us in singing "In the Garden".

Business meeting was opened with reading of minutes, treasurer reported \$1,323.19.

Mary H showed banners she had made #1 with names of ladies involved with Missionary Aide - #2 programs for 2024-2025. Betty explained "The Mission Corner". Judy explained our September school project - donations can be given/donated by September 22. Kathy & Vicki made a motion to give \$150 to Habitat - \$150 to School Project. October project - Food Pantry - Carol H is our rep for the Food Pantry.

Joys and concerns were shared. Pastor Karen led us in prayer.

Meeting closed with the Aide Benediction.

Kathy & Mary were the committee for the day. Eleven ladies and one guest enjoyed a delicious buffet.

Jane Moffitt, Secretary



Together, we build a better future.

Habitat for Humanity is a movement of people in your local area and around the world, working together to build more prosperous and vibrant communities by making sure everyone has a safe, affordable place to call home.



Lord, when the winds of worry blow and the waves of life feel strong, anchor my heart in You. Remind me that You are my peace, my refuge, and the calm within every storm. In You, I will not be moved. Amen.

There are many ways you can serve West Liberty Cares:

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Please contact Carol Hemphill or Barb Trimble, if you have questions or would like to join us on a Wednesday.

A list of items found on the pantry shelves is listed below. Please use this list for your donations.

WLC FOOD PANTRY GROCERIES

Breakfast

Cereal
Oatmeal
Pancake Mix
Syrup
Toaster Pastries

Proteins

- Beef Stew
- Beans
 - black
 - kidney
 - pork & beans
- Chicken

Fruits

- Applesauce
- Mandarin Oranges
- Mixed Fruit
- Peaches
- Pears
- Pineapple

Soups

Chicken Noodle
Cream of Chicken
Cream of Mushroom
Tomato
Vegetable Beef

Starches

Cornbread Mix
Crackers
Egg Noodles
Elbow Macaroni
Lasagna Noodles
Mac & Cheese
Potatoes boxed
Rice
Spaghetti Noodles
Spaghetti Sauce
Stuffing

li

Hash
Hot Dish Helper
Pasta canned
Spam
Tuna

Vegetables

- Carrots
- Corn
- Green Beans
- Mixed Vegetables
- Peas
- Potatoes
- Tomatoes
- Tomato Sauce

NonFood Items

Paper Towels
Toilet Paper
Laundry Soap
Bar Soap
Toothpaste
Deodorant
Shampoo
Dish Soap
Sanitary Pads

Condiments

- Jelly
- Ketchup
- Mayonnaise
- Mustard
- Parmesan Cheese
- Peanut Butter
- Salad Dressing

Baking/Desserts

- Brownie Mix
- Cake Mix
- Cookies
- Flour
- Frosting
- Graham Crackers
- Jello
- Oil
- Pudding
- Sugar

Drinks

Fruit Juice
Milk
- canned
- Powdered
Tomato Juice





By Brandy Powell

Junior Church

Discussion of the Christmas program has begun! The kids are eager to get started on preparing for the service on December 7. Please mark your calendars and plan to have your kids at church as much as possible as we get closer to the performance.

In Unison (3rd-7th grades) and Unity (2nd grade and younger)

We will be having a fall event at 9:00 am on October 19 for any youth who is not in confirmation class that morning.

United in Christ (8th-12th grades)

Although only one of our older youth attended, Pastor Karen had a great message to share on time management and the importance of prioritizing God in our daily lives. Scriptures included Psalm 90:12, Ephesians 5:15-17, and James 4:14. We want to see you all on October 12. We hope you can make attending this meeting a priority!



Upcoming Events:

October 12: United in Christ 5-7 pm

October 19: Unity and In Unison 9-10am

October 23: WL Spooktacular 5-7 pm

November 9: United in Christ 5-7 pm

December 7: Christmas Program 10:30 am

December 14: Visit to Camp Washington UCC



LOVE

My mother once said: "Hate has 4 letters but so does love. Enemies has 7 letters but so does friends. Lying has 5 letters but so does truth. Cry has 3 letters but so does joy. Negativity has 10 letters but so does positivity." Life is 2 sided, choose the better side of it.





Nursery Volunteers Wanted

Looking for volunteers to stay in the nursery with our children. We have recently added a television in the nursery making it possible to streamline the Church service. Please consider helping out with the Nursery.



Welcome to the World

Daulton Jacob Humphrey

Born August 31, 2025

8 pounds 10 oz

Parents: Katie & Chase Humphrey

Grandparents: John & Kari Detwiler

Great Grandmother: Judy Legge



Welcome to the World

Everett Daniel Wilcox

Born August 21, 2025

6 pounds 2 oz - 19½ inches

Parents: Zech and Grace Wilcox

Grandparents: Tim & Julie Wilcox

Great Grandfather: Bill Warner

Aunts: Kaylee & Oliva Wilcox



Welcome to the World

Nolan Luther Ridenour

Born September 10, 2025

8 pounds 3 oz - 20½ inches

Parents: Cassidy & Luke Ridenour

Grandparents: Rob & Carla Stephan

Aunt: Nicole Klingler

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Y



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Y

thank
you



Thank you to my Church Family for all the prayers, cards, calls, and texts the last couple of weeks. They were so appreciated and helped lift my spirits. Thank you all so much for your prayers, kind words and thoughts.

Renay Fullerton