

The Community Church
P.O. Box 14
Boulder Junction, WI-54512-0014
Phone 715-385-2146



Community Church News March 2021

Come Worship With Us

<p>Community Church of Boulder Jct. 10445 Main St P O Box 14 Boulder Jct., WI 54512-0014</p> <p>Telephone: 715-385-2146</p> <p>E-mail: commchbj@centurytel.net Website: www.commchbj.org</p> <p>Services: Sundays at 9:30am Online at website or Facebook</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Church Staff</u></p> <p>Interim Pastor Steve Slagel 574-536-1461</p> <p>Organist Lorine Walters Telephone: 715-686-2725</p> <p>Choir Director Glen Wildenberg E-mail choirdirector@commchbj.org</p> <p>Treasurer Bruce Greenhill E-mail: treasurer@commchbj.org</p> <p>Council Chair Maggie Wolf Telephone: 715-385-3233</p> <p>Custodian Glen Wildenberg Telephone 920-323-2728</p> <p>Grounds Jeff Jackson Telephone 715-571-3320</p> <p>Newsletter Wendi Neupert E-mail cbjnewsletter@gmail.com</p>	<p>Office Manager Nancy Nelson Tues 10a.m. – 2p.m. Wed 10a.m. – 2p.m. Thu 10a.m. – 2p.m. Fri 10a.m. – 2p.m.</p> <p><u>Board of Elders available by phone or appointment:</u> Lorine Walters: 715-686-272 Shelby Tallroth: 715-605-2665 LeeAnn Ondracek: 715-385-2602 Bonnie Pollard: 715-588-7274 Harold Eick: 715-385-2173 Ruth Johnson: 715-588-7992 Duane Marquardt 715-385-2720</p>
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“Somos el Cuerpo de Cristo / We are the Body of Christ” is the title of one of my favorite worship songs. Each line of the song begins with Spanish and then repeats in English. The song became a favorite for me worshipping with a historically Anglo congregation that welcomed in Latino immigrants from their neighborhood. It all began when a couple of bi-lingual members offered English classes to help Spanish speaking neighbors with everyday life. Then they invited a Puerto Rican pastor, who had recently immigrated, to teach a Sunday school class in Spanish. In worship, they brought in a bi-lingual student from the local college and began offering simultaneous translation using a closed-circuit audio system.

With all these creative efforts, the gathered congregation was quickly growing as 20 to 40 Latino worshippers joined in each week. Still, there were two very distinct groups that did not know how to relate to each other. The two groups were very cordial, passing smiles and nods on Sunday mornings. However, many of the white members of the church actually felt threatened by “those others” who were filling the pews. For their part, the Latinos wondered why most people would not speak to them.

Spanish speaking people enjoyed the old gospel hymns with the tunes they knew from their home churches in Mexico, Honduras, Guatemala, and Puerto Rico. Before long they asked if the song leaders could include the Spanish lyrics. Then, the worship leaders came across the song “Somos el Cuerpo de Cristo,” a song in both languages that spoke their hearts longing for unity.

*God is revealed when we love one another.
Bringing the light of God’s mercy to others,
Putting a stop to all discrimination,
Somos el cuerpo de Cristo. We are the body of Christ.*

*We are invited to feast in the banquet.
Stopping Abuse and relieving the hungry,
Serving each other we build up the kingdom;
Somos el cuerpo de Cristo. We are the body of Christ.*
(Jaime Cortez, b.1963, and Bob Hurd, b.1950)

This song marked the congregation’s journey from the experience of division to singing of themselves as the church using the word “we.”

Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. Romans 12.3b-5

Grace and peace to you, CCBJ, the body of Christ.

Steve Slagel, Interim Pastor

If you would like to schedule a conversation, give me a call at 574.536.1461, or email me at steves@designgroupintl.com.



March 2021 Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 2nd Brian Derber
 4th Lee Ann Ondracek
 Sue Patterson
 5th Cindy Hawkinson
 Sharon Perry
 Robert Poisson
 Carli Boston Denton
 6th Becky Prigge
 7th Tim Sanderson
 9th Jimmy Dean VanRossum
 12th Mary Congdon
 13th **Deb & Steve Halverson**

14th *Daylight Savings Time*

- 15th Rebekah Loew
 16th Dave Sullivan
 17th



- 18th Mike J. Duwe
 20th Anita Pierce



- 21st Chris Calder
 22nd Richard Calder
 23rd **Paul & Karen Newberg**
 26th Charles Knox
 29th Chris Wolter
 Jay Kassien
 30th **Matt & Leah Loew**
 Rachel Koester



*Dear Friends,
 As our country and our church
 continue to practice safe gathering for
 indoor worship we thank those who
 volunteer as readers, sound system
 monitors, offer special music, etc. We
 will continue to request that those in
 attendance at the service volunteer to
 serve as ushers & greeters. Thank
 you again for sharing your time and
 talent with our congregation.
 Blessings!
 Glen Wildenberg
 Worship & Music Department*

*For God so loved the world
 that he gave his one and only Son,
 that whoever believes in him
 shall not perish but have eternal life.*

John 3:16



March 7 th	Wendi Neupert
March 14 th	Harold Eick
March 21	Linda Sterba
March 28 th	Bonnie Pollard

**We are looking for a few more people
 to serve as Scripture Readers during
 our Sunday morning services.
 If you would like to share your time
 and talents in this way, please contact
 Claudia at 715-202-3314**

From the Church Office . . .

COMMUNION

The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be observed at the worship service March 7, 2021.

COUNCIL MEETING

Church Council meets Tuesday, March 9, at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Prior to the Council meeting, the Elders meet at 4:30 p.m. Refer to the Sunday bulletin for announcements of when other departments or committees meet.

CONTACT INFORMATION

In an effort to improve accurate contact with our church members, we are updating our data management systems and we need your help. Whether you receive this Newsletter by email or the post office, at times, the church is required to send information by postal delivery. We would appreciate your contacting the church office with your current physical mailing address, email address and phone number(s) and indicating whether you prefer to receive general information from us by postal delivery or email. If you are a snow bird and do not have your mail forwarded, please provide summer and winter addresses. Email us at commchbj@centurytel.net or call 715-385-2146.

FOOD PANTRY

Volunteers are needed for the Spring & Summer. Interested parties can call Fred Zarembka at 715-892-5894

Summer Camp

It's time to start thinking about camp! Camp is and has been a formative experience for many early in their Christian walk. We have seen our children be spiritually fed at Covenant Point, Living Waters, and Camp Manitowish. Camperships are available for 1/3 of the cost, up to \$200! It is important to register with the camp of your choice early because, in some cases, early-bird discounts may apply. After you have applied to camp, send a copy of the registration form to the church office.

TREASURER'S REPORT

	Income	Expense
January	\$ 7815.49	\$ 20,259.59
Fiscal Year to Date	\$129,989.25	\$121,577.40

Just a quick note from your Stewardship Department. There are still a few Boxes of offering envelopes to be picked up. If you are unable to come by the church to get them, call and we will deliver or send them out. Also, generic offering envelopes will be available at the church if you need one when giving your offering on Sunday mornings.



Special Music for March

- March 7th – Lorine Walters
- March 14th – Mary Congdon
- March 21st - Joan Christgau
- March 28th – Sarah Poisson

Thank you to all who enrich our services by sharing your time, talent and special gifts. If you wish to offer “special music”, please contact Gracie (Chirp) Vickerstaff at 715-356-3315 or call the church office to schedule a date.

CELEBRATING LENT

Lent began with Ash Wednesday on February 17th with a pre-recorded service that was and is available on the church website. Weekly Lenten devotional readings and suggested daily practices have been created and are available on the church website, via email and in print form. Printed copies are available at the church or call for one to be sent.

CHURCH COUNCIL REPORTS

Community Church of Boulder Junction's Church Council meeting was held on February 9, 2021. Possible limited attendance due to frigid temperatures. The meeting was brought to order, Pastor Steve provided prayer, followed by his presentation of "When the Air is Heavy". Plans for his presentations to be shared in the future with small group meetings are planned for the congregation. Secretary and Treasurer reports were presented and made available for review. Department reports by the Elders reporting they are reviewing the membership list for accuracy. Lorine presented a motion for Pastor Steve's contract to be extended for three additional months, motion passed. Stewardship & Finance reported high activity during this past month for documented continued giving, year-end reports and mailings.

Worship and Music continues to provide Sunday service guidance.

Personnel Department made a request for volunteers to drive Nancy N. to and from work for a four week period. Volunteers can make the office or Laurel know of their availability to drive.

Constitution and By-Laws committee reported the resignation of a member then asking for additional volunteers/ members to assist in working with this group. Requests were also made from this committee for department and committee policies and procedures, provided to this committee to be used in updating the Constitution and By-laws.

For New Business. Pastor Steve reported on update of the Transition Leadership team. The results of the interviews will be reported at two sessions this coming Sunday, February 14th to the congregation.

Readings of 2 Corinthians 4:3-6 closed the meeting.

Next Council meeting: March 9, 2021.

Submitted by: Maggie Wolf, Council Chairperson

Editor's Note: Church Council minutes are available on the bulletin board outside the office. Copies are available. Contact the office manager to pick one up or have mailed to you.

From the Transition Team at Community Church

"We're Listening!"

The recent sharing of Pastor Steve's interview results provided the *Transition Team* with lots of listening and learning opportunities. We did! (Listen *and* learn). What do we propose to do with what we've learned? Recognizing the need to rebuild trust and address lingering questions, the next step in the healing process will involve a series of small group



discussion sessions. We believe small groups will allow all voices to be heard, and at the same time provide a vehicle for the expression of "healing commitments." With the Lord's Prayer in mind, let's all accept the responsibility to find ways to join together and move forward.



Beyond the discussion sessions, a number of task groups will be needed to:

- (i) define who we are,
- (ii) clarify our needs, and
- (iii) start the search for a new pastor.

We look forward to continuing this learning journey with you!

This song was written and performed by
our very own Sarah Poisson.

How blessed we are to have such a
thoughtful and talented young person in
our church family.

Thank you for sharing Sarah

"Why Can't We?"
lyrics by Sarah Poisson

How did we get here
All broken apart
We have broken
Each other's hearts

Some have left for good now
Some still wonder how
We got to this dark place
Can't see the other's faces

God loves us
So why can't we love us
God forgives us
So why can't we forgive too

Why can't we forgive too

We can't take back the words
The hurtful things we've heard
We make each other cry
And some have said goodbye

We can all be friends
That's what a church should be in the end

God loves us
So why can't we love us
God forgives us
So why can't we forgive too

Why can't we forgive too

We can forgive too

BOOK DISCUSSION OPPORTUNITY

Anyone interested in book club/discussion
of *Canoeing the Mountains* by Tod
Bolsinger please call or email Bill Spear
715-573-8250 wspear2503@gmail.com

Missed Opportunities?

Have you had the opportunity to participate in our Sunday services lately? If you have not been able to attend in-person services, they are available each Sunday live, on the church Facebook page, and later in the day on the church website through our YouTube page. These options, put into place as a result of the physical separation due to Covid 19, are a way for our church to be "together apart".

The struggles of our Community Church are real. They have challenged not only our fellowship with one another but also our faith walk as a church. Those who are unable to join in-person, for what ever reason, may feel as if the church and its mission is "on hold" or even lost, waiting for safer times. But our church remains alive and active, as evident in all the articles and items included in the Newsletter.

I have had the opportunity to watch services live, on Facebook. And although there are challenges with how the music sounds, or not hearing comments from the congregation, the quality of the messages is excellent. God is speaking in every service. Pastor Steve, who accepted a calling to this church to aid in healing and bring hope to the hurting people of Community Church of Boulder Junction, is working hard to accomplish that task. The messages each Sunday, linked to the scripture readings, are astonishingly poignant not only for our Christian walk in general, but for the healing of the Community Church of Boulder Junction.

I encourage all who are able, if you have not already done so, to watch the services available weekly on Facebook or on the home page of the website. The Scripture readings and weekly bulletins are available to all. Use the tools and talents God has provided during these extraordinary times. If we are to heal as a church, we need to "gather" as a community. Take time to witness, even from afar, the good things God is doing in His Church.

If you need assistance locating online services or have suggestions to make the online experience better, or... if God is calling you to share your time and talents in the pursuit of this type of outreach, please contact the church office, Lorine or me. In Christ. Wendi Neupert

History- It takes many hands to accomplish God's work in His Community.

It was natural, and to be expected, that as the work of the Sunday School progressed and worship services were held at least occasionally, a longing would be expressed for a church building in which to hold services.

The Sunday School was reorganized in 1928; and moved to the Boulder School in 1931 and shortly thereafter to the Town Hall, each time needing more space and convenience. The High Lake School eventually reverted to the landowner August Ohlsson who sold it to Florence Shaw. When Florence converted the school to rental property, she gave the school bell to the Sunday School group whose dream it was to soon build a church in the community.

In the spring of 1929, notices were sent out asking all who would be interested in the task of building a church edifice, to attend a meeting at the Town Hall. Few people responded to the first two meetings. A third meeting was held, and twenty-five to thirty people attended. From this point on, work progressed to the point of actual dedication of a church in 1942.

Our church building is placed on a one-acre wooded site donated by Mr. and Mrs. S.J. Williams. The building committee, S.J. Williams, chairman, set itself to the task of raising funds for a church building. The cornerstone was laid on May 12, 1940 (Mother's Day). At last the dreams of the founders had come to fruition. Two hundred-fifty people attended this dedication and gave a generous offering to the building fund. A dinner at the Town Hall immediately following the services helped supply additional funds. They were much needed for at that time only \$300 had been raised in a year of effort.

The two years it took to build a simple frame chapel, 30'x50' is an indication of the obstacles, financial and otherwise, that were faced and overcome. The furniture in the church was made by local craftsmen. A Native American from the Lac du Flambeau Reservation built the pulpit identical to the one in the Community Church on the Flambeau reservation. The bell was brought from the Oswego Lake Schoolhouse.

Because of the large amount of volunteer labor and substantial gifts of material goods, it was possible to keep the total cost of the sanctuary at \$3000. By the day of dedication, less than \$1000 remained as indebtedness. The ladies Aid Society was very active in fund raising and helped considerably toward the

The Boulder Junction Lions Club continues to serve the community with another fun, Covid friendly event.

The Lioness Bunny Breakfast is reimagined as the Cottontail Curbside.

Happening March 27th at the Community Center. Registration information will soon be available at the library website and the Lions Facebook page. Registration will be due by March 14th.

Watch for more details.

LIBRARY INFORMATION

Our new librarian, Sarah Poisson, has prepared a list of books available to you in our library. Stop in any time to check out a book!

[Library Books.1.30.21](#)



Membership Does Have Its Advantages

If you are planning to update your will or estate plan, did you know that through our affiliate membership of The Evangelical Covenant Church, members of the Boulder Junction Community Church qualify for free and/or discounted financial planning? A range of services are provided by *Covenant Trust*, which began in 1978 as a team within the Evangelical Covenant Church. In 1988, the team expanded and started a stand-alone chartered trust company serving the public. Today, they have more than \$2 billion under their care.

Covenant Trust provides investment management, trustee services, and estate and gift planning to individuals, families and institutions. *Covenant Trust* is an Illinois state-chartered, non-depository trust company. "Non-depository" means that *Covenant Trust* does not have savings or checking accounts like a bank, but is able to provide full trust and investment management services to members, friends and ministries of The Evangelical Covenant Church and its affiliates. For a no-obligation initial consultation call *Financial Services*

Constitution and By-laws Committee update.

Did you know that the Community Church of Boulder Junction has a Constitution and Bylaws?

Did you know that you can find a copy of these documents by clicking on the "Documents" button on the church's website's home page? (Or you can request a copy be mailed from the church office.)

At its November 2020 meeting, the Church Council created a Constitution & Bylaws Committee to begin a review of the existing Constitution and Bylaws. The committee members are Bruce Greenhill, Ellie Orbison (chair), Shelby Tallroth, and Bob Zahn. Maggie Wolf (Council Chair) and Steve Slagel (interim Pastor) participate as ex-officio members.

The current priorities for the committee's work are: **(IN NO PARTICULAR ORDER)**

- Review the make up of the church council (Article V in the constitution).
- Add a section on how a pastoral search committee would be formed.
- Clarify how church council officers are voted into office and what their terms of service are.
- Discuss whether to combine the Constitution and Bylaws into a single Bylaws document to eliminate inconsistencies and repetition caused by maintaining two documents.
- Add procedures to allow electronic/telephonic attendance at church council and congregational meetings (including voting procedures).
- Eliminate inconsistencies through the documents (e.g., general definitions, make up of departments & committees (number of members, terms, descriptions), membership definitions, amendment requirements, personnel issues, etc.).

Please remember! The committee will be working on ideas and proposed changes, but we have no authority. We will be seeking feedback from the council and congregation throughout the process. The members of the church are ultimately the only ones who can vote to accept (or deny) any changes proposed.

There is no timeline for getting the work done. The committee will stay focused on bringing amendments to congregational meetings as appropriate.

We invite you to participate in whatever way you can.

- Consider joining the committee as it reviews the bylaws and proposes future amendments to the congregation. Though we are currently meeting face to face, we would be happy to include additional members via phone or Zoom.
- Read and react to the current constitution and bylaws. Send your thoughts to the committee to be included in their discussions.
- Be prepared to provide feedback as the committee shares ideas in the coming months. Whether by attending a discussion session or by responding to future articles in the church newsletter, all feedback is welcome.
- Attend the annual meeting of the congregation and be prepared to vote on any proposed amendments to the constitution and bylaws. Your vote matters.

If you would like to help on the committee or provide feedback, please reach out to Ellie Orbison (ellieorb@aol.com or 715-892-1240). We look forward to hearing your thoughts!

Kids Corner



The Narrative Lectionary

The Worship & Music Committee based upon a recommendation by Pastor Steve is implementing The Narrative Lectionary in place of the Standard Common Lectionary that we are currently using. The following paragraph from its website (www.narrativelectionary.org) provides a basic description of its function. The website has several additional resources including suggested hymns and prayers appropriate for each Sunday.

The Narrative Lectionary is a four-year cycle of readings. On the Sundays from September through May each year the texts follow the sweep of the biblical story, from Creation through the early Christian church. The texts show the breadth and variety of voices within Scripture. They invite people to hear the stories of Abraham and Sarah, Moses and the prophets, Jesus, and Paul. Listening to the many different voices within Scripture enriches preaching and the life of faith. The texts include the major episodes in Scripture. They are arranged in a narrative sequence to help people see Scripture as a story that has coherence and a dynamic movement.

March Lectionary		
Lent		
March 7th	The Lost is Found / Luke 15:1-32	Pastor Steve
Communion	Psalm 119:167-176	
	Reading: Exodus 20:1-17	
March 14th	The Rich Man & Lasarus / Luke 16:19-31	Pastor Steve
	Psalm 41:1-3	
	Reading: Numbers 21:4-9	
March 21st	Zacchaeus / Luke 19:1-10	Pastor Steve
	Psalm 84:1-4, 10-12	
	Reading: Jeremiah 31:13-34	
March 28th	Palm Sunday / Luke 19:29-44	Elders
	Psalm 118:19-23	
	Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9a	

Editor's Note: Thank you to all who contributed to this Newsletter. A reminder for those who have items to contribute, please have information to me at cbjnewsletter@gmail.com by the 3rd Thursday of the month (or before) so there is time to place everything and distribute prior to the end of each month.

Thank You Wendi Neupert