

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



## Community Church News December 2023 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: <a href="mailto:secretary@commchbj.org">secretary@commchbj.org</a> Website: <a href="http://www.commchbj.org">www.commchbj.org</a></p> <p>Pastors Office Hours Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 10AM- 2PM</p> <p>Services: Sundays at 9:30am on Facebook Live Community Church of Boulder Junction WI or on the website.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Church Staff</u></p> <p>Pastor Nathan Keisler Telephone: 803-447-4004 E-mail: <a href="mailto:pastor@commchbj.org">pastor@commchbj.org</a></p> <p>Organist Lorine Walters Telephone: 715-686-2725</p> <p>Finance Manager Bruce Greenhill E-mail: <a href="mailto:treasurer@commchbj.org">treasurer@commchbj.org</a></p> <p>Council Chair Anne Derber Telephone: 715-686-7732</p> <p>Custodian Peggi Dry 321-604-7641</p> <p>Grounds Steve Sherriff Telephone 715-559-0841</p> <p>Newsletter Wendi Neupert E-mail <a href="mailto:ccbnewsletter@gmail.com">ccbnewsletter@gmail.com</a></p>	<p>Office Manager Laurie Hoelzel Office Hours Mon 9a.m. – 2p.m. Closed Tuesday Wed 9a.m. – 2p.m. Thu 9a.m. – 2p.m. Closed Friday</p> <p><u>Elders available by phone or Appointment:</u></p> <p>Lorine Walters: 715-686-2725 Shelby Tallroth: 715-605-2665 LeeAnn Ondracek: 715-385-2602 Bonnie Pollard: 715-588-7244 Harold Eick: 715-385-2173 Duane Marquardt 715-385-2720 Ellie Orbison 715-892-1240 Lynn Keating 501-580-0623 Jim Stober 262-844-6778 Dick Govier 608-448-1966</p>
--	---	--

# Choosing Happiness



**A**t the end of every year, it is December. Every December, we look to the coming of Christmas, the celebration of Jesus' birth. But why do we celebrate it every year? Isn't it same old same old, I've heard this story all my life. Some say, "Bah Humbug" out of sense of cynicism or the desire to detest something (like Christmas) that the majority of people wish to enjoy. Interestingly enough, it turns out that cultures the world over have a profound NEED to celebrate the sacred events in our lives. Here are 5 reasons I found (and adapted a bit), from a website called Project Happiness, that I could not have said better.

- 1. It** Cultivates a sense of Community: One of the most opportune times to bond with our families and friends is during special occasions. We have a chance to connect with those we love on a deeper and more profound level.
- 2. It** Instills a sense of meaning and significance to our lives: Participating in the customary traditions of an event connects us to the significance that an event plays within the grand scheme of our lives. It instills a sense of reverence and appreciation for the gift of life and connects us to an omnipotent God.
- 3. We** will create lasting fond memories: The human mind tends to recall memories that carry a high emotional charge to them. When we commemorate a special occasion, we are essentially placing a mental bookmark on an experience, thereby making it easier to remember it in the future. The photos, videos, and decorations from those occasions serve as triggers that we can use to re-live those pleasant experiences in the future.
- 4. It** adds fun and excitement to our lives: Celebrations can be incredibly fun and provides us with the perfect opportunity to engage in the joys of life such as dance, song, food, play and laughter. Who doesn't look forward to the fun-filled occasions where we can take a break from our mundane existence? The little kid within us still relishes in the excitement of an upcoming celebration and this is an emotion that we deserve to indulge in as adults as well.
- 5. We** take our place in the story of life: When we commemorate special occasions, we are essentially connecting with our humanity and the commonality that we share with all those who have been long gone before us. We tap into the timelessness of the human spirit when we take the time to pay respect to the important rites of passages that were celebrated by our ancestors in the yesteryears.

Choosing Happiness during the Christmas season is available to us. God asks us to create times of celebration with Him. It is of the utmost benefit to our mind, our emotions and bodies, and our spirits. Let us embrace this time of celebration with God with all that we are.

Happy Holidays  
Pastor Nathan

## Lectionary Readings for December 2023

### **December 3<sup>rd</sup>**

- Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
- First Reading: Isaiah 64:1-9
- Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9
- Gospel: Mark 13:24-37

### **December 10<sup>th</sup>**

- Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
- First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11
- Second Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-15a
- Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

### **December 17<sup>th</sup>**

- Psalm 126
- First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
- Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
- Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28

### **December 24<sup>th</sup>**

- Call to Worship: Luke 1:46b-55
- First Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7
- Second Reading: Romans 16:25-27
- Gospel: Luke 1:67-79

### **December 31<sup>st</sup>**

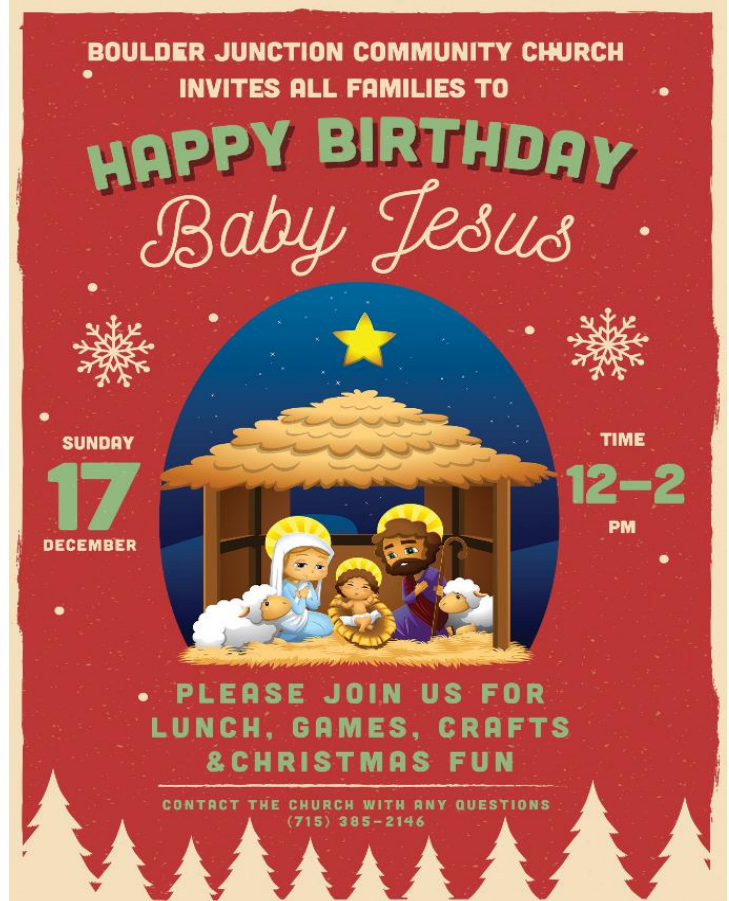
- Psalm 148:1-4, 13-14
- First Reading: Isaiah 61:10- 62:3
- Second Reading: Galatians 4:4-7
- Gospel: Luke 2:25-40

God is calling us to share His love  
with all those around us.

On Sunday Dec. 17 we will be hosting a time of  
celebration for the birth of Jesus with the  
families of Boulder Junction.

Help spread the word by inviting family,  
friends, and neighbors to this special day.

Let us once again fill our church with the  
joyful sounds of children hearing the  
story of Jesus' birth.



Jan 7 – 4:00PM A Night of Prayer  
and Worship  
“A Night of Renewal”

Each start to the new year, we will begin with  
praise. This is a night for us to feel renewed  
and refreshed for the year ahead of us.

It is also for us to pray and listen in order for  
God to shape our expectations of the work

He is asking us to participate in for our  
community.



## Community Conversation


Join us December 3<sup>rd</sup> as we continue  
this series designed to provide  
updates and information about church  
Departments and Committees.

The **Act of Love** program  
will be presented in the Fellowship Hall  
from 10:45-11:00.

Come and learn more about the good works  
happening in our church.



## Birthdays & Anniversaries December 2023

1 <sup>st</sup>	Richard Russell
3 <sup>rd</sup>	<i>Advent Begins</i>
4 <sup>th</sup>	Jean Knox
7 <sup>th</sup>	Maggie Wolf
10 <sup>th</sup>	Bruce Wilsie Jason Maurer
12 <sup>th</sup>	Randy Bassuener
18 <sup>th</sup>	Mindy Poisson
19 <sup>th</sup>	Harold Eick
21 <sup>st</sup>	Jax Keisler
25 <sup>th</sup>	 Jim Naylor
26 <sup>th</sup>	Karla Westphal
27 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Adam &amp; Jamie Zogata</b>
31 <sup>st</sup>	Ben Westphal

### Help beautify the church!

Poinsettias will be accepted in honor or memory of loved ones. You can place them in the fellowship hall until Sunday morning service when they will be added to the display.



## Ushers & Greeters



Dec 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Steve & Nancy Sherriff
Dec 10 <sup>th</sup>	Lee Ann Ondracek & Deb Halverson
Dec 17 <sup>th</sup>	Betty Clough & Diana Dunker
Dec 24 <sup>th</sup>	Dick & Sue Govier
Dec 31 <sup>st</sup>	Mary Anderson & Joyce Marquardt

If anyone would like to join the team for ushering and greeting our congregation on Sundays, let me know. Thank you to all who help in any area.  
Joyce Marquardt (715/385-2720)



Dec 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Don Pollard
Dec 10 <sup>th</sup>	Joyce Marquardt
Dec 17 <sup>th</sup>	Bruce Greenhill
Dec 24 <sup>th</sup>	Caleb Keisler
Dec 31 <sup>st</sup>	Linda Sterba

## December Special Gifts

<i>Dec 3<sup>rd</sup></i>	<i>Pastor Nathan</i>
<i>Dec 10<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>Lorine Walters</i>
<i>Dec 17<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>The Keisler Children</i>
<i>Dec 24<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>Christmas Choir</i>
<i>Dec 31<sup>st</sup></i>	<i>Bonnie Pollard</i>

## Calling All Voices.

Join our "Christmas Choir" Sunday Dec 10<sup>th</sup>, 11:00 for our first Choir practice.

With Lorine's help, we will choose a Christmas Carol, practice a few times, and put our voices together during the Christmas Eve service. You are welcome to join us.





## From the Church Office . . .

### COMMUNION

The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be observed at the worship service December 3, 2023.

### COUNCIL MEETING

Church Council meets Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Watch the Sunday bulletin or check the BIG wall calendar for announcements of when departments or committees meet.

### WEEKLY BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you would like to place an announcement in the weekly bulletin, please submit it to the church office by **Tuesday** afternoon.

### FILL IN THE CALANDAR FOR 2024!

Laurie requests that Departments, Committees, and others put meeting notices on the large format calendar across from the office. This information is used to inform every one of the happenings in the church through the bulletin and newsletter announcements.

### COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

Sunday December 3<sup>rd</sup> in the fellowship hall  
10:45-11  
The Act of Love Program

### COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY

Is asking for donations of any extra 2024 calendars you may have. Please leave them in the box near the coat closet near the rear entrance of the church.

### FAMILY CHRISTMAS EVENT

Sunday, December 17, 12 – 2 PM

Happy Birthday Baby Jusus.

Inviting the community to this day of celebration.



### CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE With Communion

Sunday December 24, 5:00PM

**\*\* Note there will be no morning service on Dec 24.**

### TREASURER'S REPORT

The monthly Treasurer's report is available in the Church Council meeting minutes and as requested from the Stewardship of Finance Committee or the church office.

## Special Reminder of our Fall Financial Appeal

God has a hope and a future for our Community Church. We are excited by the plans He has for us.

I know that you also can feel the excitement and expectation building for our way forward. I want to make a special request.

Will you consider giving your end of year donation to  
Community Church?

We have BIG plans ahead of us, but we cannot do it without you. Every individual and family that loves the Community Church of BJ plays a BIG part in helping us live out the purposes that God has for us.

Please consider making a donation this month so we might see God multiply your efforts to bring the love and hope of Christ to our community and beyond.

If you have questions regarding how to donate, please contact Stewardship chair Bill Spear, Finance Manager, Bruce Greenhill, or the church office.

### OFFERING ENVELOPES

Offering envelopes for 2024 are in Fellowship Hall. Please stop by to pick yours up as soon as possible. Do not use the new envelopes until the New Year as some assigned envelope numbers have been changed.

## Thank You

to all who participated in the  
Boulder Junction  
Community  
Thanksgiving  
Potluck Dinner.



Over 160 people joined together at the  
Community Center and 37 meals  
were delivered.

A highly successful blessing!  
See you again next year!

## CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Please join us for worship with Holy Communion on  
Christmas Eve at 5:00PM.

This is a night we celebrate with family.

This can also be a night you invite friends and neighbors to enjoy the celebration of Christ's birth. We will have our Choir, sing carols, and remember to hold the treasure of Christ's coming in our hearts.



*Joy to the world*

If you are not able to attend in person, the service will be broadcast on Facebook Live and available Christmas Day on the church website. We would love to see you here!

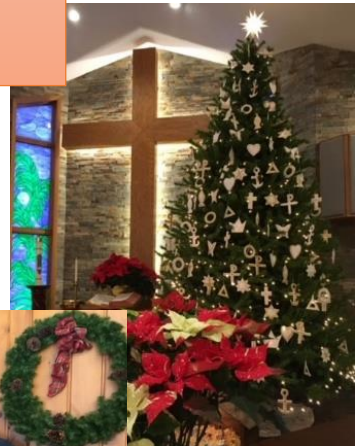
### Christian Education Opportunities.

Lectionary Study – Wednesday 10AM.  
In the church conference room.  
Led by Pastor Nathan

The “Bible Project” Video.  
Sundays at 9:10am. Led by Steve Sherriff  
In the Church Conference Room.

Holiday Book Club –  
12 Stories of Christmas by Robert Morgan  
Open house gathering Dec 27, 3-9.  
Led by Sue & Dick Govier.

The Beautification Committee would like to thank all those who helped with “Greening of the Church”. A wonderful setting for worship and praise this season of Love.



### Like Tech? Love Worship?

Be part of our team Sunday mornings assisting with our new sound system and Facebook Live.

Simple, easy, fun. The more the merrier.  
Contact Lorine, Wendi, Bruce or Pastor Nathan.

A full list of the 2023-24 Department Committee members  
is located on the bulletin board by the church office.

*In addition, 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.*

## Mission Moment: Contact Diana for more info

Our Giving Tree is once again decorated in the Fellowship Hall this Holiday season with opportunities to share your blessings.



Gifts will benefit New Dawn Pregnancy Resource Center and Fredericks Place.

While you are out Holiday shopping, consider adding some of these wish list items to your cart and place them under the tree in the Fellowship Hall.

Thank you to all who participated in this very special mission. 138 Boxes of Love have been sent from your hearts to the hearts of children around the world.

Let us pray that the message of Jesus fills their hearts, and the Love of God surrounds them and their communities.  
GOD BLESS US ALL!



## New Dawn

— Pregnancy Resource Center —

About Us:  
We provide compassionate, confidential, and cost-free care to women and men in need of support while facing an unexpected pregnancy. You are not alone. We listen to fears, answer questions, and provide accurate information about all the options available to our clients. Our services are available anytime throughout pregnancy.

### WISH LIST

#### New Dawn & Fredericks Place

Bottled Water  
Baby Wipes  
Diapers – Sizes Newborn and 1  
Postage Stamps – Standard First-Class Letter  
Laundry Detergent  
Dryer Sheets  
Dishwasher Detergent  
13 Gallon Garbage Bags  
30 Gallon Garbage Bags  
Bath and Kitchen cleaning supplies  
Wash Cloths  
Swiffer Wet Pads  
Disposable Gloves-All Sizes



### NATH-Frederick Place

Northwoods Alliance for Temporary Housing

#### About Us:

"I was a stranger and you invited me in..." --  
Matthew 25:35 NIV

NATH is committed to ending and preventing homelessness. This corporation exists to provide safe housing and basic needs to families and individuals who are experiencing homelessness.



# December 2023

## Community Church of Boulder Junction



### You're Invited!

**December 17 – Christmas Family Event**  
at Church beginning at 12:00 Noon

**December 24 - 5:00 pm Christmas Eve**  
**Service with Communion**

*Christmas, my child, is love in action. Every time we love, every time we give, it's Christmas.*  
*Dale Evans Rogers*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 9:10 am Bible Project Study 9:30 am Service w/Communion 10:45 am - Act of Love Community Conversation	4 8:00 am Gentle Weight Lifting 9:00 am Properties Mtg 1:00 pm Worship & Music Mtg	5	6 8:00 am Gentle Weight Lifting 8:30 am Healthy Living Group 10:00 am Bible Study 11:15 Comm. Meeting	7 3:30-5:00 pm Food Pantry and Clothes Closet	8 8:00 am Gentle Weight Lifting	9
10 9:10 am Bible Project Study 9:30 am Service 11:00 am Christmas Choir Rehearsal	11 8:00 am Gentle Weight Lifting	12 3:30 pm – Steward of Finance Mtg. 4:00 pm Elders Mtg. 5:30 pm Council Mtg	13 8:00 am Gentle Weight Lifting 8:30 am Healthy Living Group 10:00 am Bible Study	14 10:00-11:30 am Food Pantry and Clothes Closet	15 8:00 am Gentle Weight Lifting	16
17 9:10 am Bible Project Study 9:30 am Service 12:00 pm Family Christmas Event at Church	18 8:00 am Gentle Weight Lifting	19	20 8:00 am Gentle Weight Lifting 8:30 am Healthy Living Group 10:00 am Bible Study	21 3:30-5:00 pm Food Pantry and Clothes Closet	22 8:00 am Gentle Weight Lifting	23
24 <b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b> 5:00 pm Service w/Communion	25 Christmas Day Happy Birthday Baby Jesus!	26	27 8:00 am Gentle Weight Lifting 8:30 am Healthy Living Group No morning Bible study	28 10:00-11:30 am Food Pantry and Clothes Closet	29 8:00 am Gentle Weight Lifting	30

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 [ccbnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:ccbnewsletter@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