

# The Friendly Communicator

## February 2025

### A Word from the Pastor

As we celebrate Valentine's Day this February, you may feel encouraged to express your love through cards, gifts, and sweet gestures. While these things are wonderful displays of affection, we are reminded in scripture that love is more than just a feeling—it is an active reflection of God's great love for us. In 1 John 4:19, we read, "We love because God first loved us." This verse is a beautiful reminder that our capacity to love (whether it's toward a spouse or significant other, toward our friends or our family, or even toward strangers) comes from God's love that overflows within us.

In our busy lives, it can be easy to take others for granted, forgetting to show our appreciation for all their seemingly small, daily acts of care and attention. But Christian love isn't just about what gifts we give, it is about how we serve and care for others with humility and sacrifice. Jesus modeled this for us perfectly throughout his earthly ministry, giving dignity to those whom society considered to be of lesser value.

As we celebrate Valentine's Day this month, let's use this season as a reminder that love is central to our faith. Let's take a moment to reflect on the ways we can love more like Christ—with a heart of service and compassion. Whether in our homes, our workplaces, or our communities, we have the opportunity to demonstrate our gratitude to Christ by extending Christ's love to everyone we meet, modeling the kind of love that is patient, kind, and not self-seeking (1 Corinthians 13:4-7). May God fill our hearts with love and empower us to love others as Christ loves us.

Warmly,

Pastor Stephen

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## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2	Sue Simons
4	Sarah Holl
4	Owen Koss
4	Ethan Koss
5	Maggie Ley
7	Tami Keinert
7	Tom Borger
10	Deb Russell
13	Sheila Beutin
14	Anne Wyszowski
15	Pearline Ortiz
20	Linda Boardman
25	Christine Hauski
28	Klaus Zunker

If we have inadvertently missed your special day, please accept our apologies, and let the office know so we can change our records.

## Baptism Class

If you missed the Baptism/Membership class on January 19th, we will have a make-up class on Sunday, February 2nd at 9:15 in the Parlor. Please let Catherine Wood or Pastor Stephen know if you plan to come so we will have enough handouts.

The rest of the classes will be held Sundays before church at 9:15 in the Parlor on the following dates:

Feb 9<sup>th</sup>, Feb 16<sup>th</sup>, March 2nd, March 16th

## 3Gs & G Washington

The Golden Guys and Gals (3Gs) will enjoy a lasagna lunch at church at 12:15 pm on Tuesday, Feb 18, and then drive to Clement Manor, 9405 W Howard Ave, to meet George and Martha Washington. The cost of the presentation by historian David Wiedenkeller is \$7 per person. Learn about George Washington's childhood and his experiences as a military officer, surveyor, farmer, and President. Listen to Martha tell stories about Colonial America and life at Mt. Vernon.

Please sign up for the lunch and presentation in the Education Wing foyer. The sign-up deadline is Sunday, Feb 16.

Remember, if you are 50 or older then you are automatically a member of 3Gs. Not yet 50? Don't worry, we don't check IDs. Dues are \$5 per year payable to Kathy McDonald.

Suggested items for the third Sunday (February 16th) food and hygiene collection for the Milwaukee Christian Center are **rice** and **body wash**. Please place your donations in the bins inside the office door entrance.

# The Friendly Communicator

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### December 2024 Financial Income Report

**General Receipts**

Envelopes	\$25,846.48
Loose Offerings	444.00
Church School	167.00
Thanksgiving	76.00
Christmas Eve	334.00
Christmas	50.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$26,917.48</b>

**Miscellaneous Receipts**

Postage	3.00
Secret Place	12.00
Pow wow	50.00
Music funds/Library Square	50.00
Scholarship Dividend	727.96
Milwaukee Myanmar Christian Church	600.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,442.96</b>

**Communion Offering**

RMMO	102.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$102.00</b>

**Memorial Fund**

Ben Woods	100.00
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**Mission Offering**

RMMO	1,551.00
Grand Avenue Club	150.00
Milwaukee Christian Center	150.00
World Mission Offering	45.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,170.00</b>

**Deposited Total** **\$30,458.44**



**Sponsored by  
American Baptist Women  
Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup>  
following worship  
Soup, bread and dessert  
for a donation  
Come and support  
Milwaukee Christian Center  
and  
St. Ben's Meal Program**

### New Stained Glass Window

At the annual business meeting on Jan 19, the congregation approved a proposal from Conrad Schmitt Studios to fabricate and install a stained glass window and protective glass above the entrance doors to the Education Wing. The project is scheduled to be completed by Easter. Contributions designated for the Stained Glass Fund or the Memorial Fund (designated for stained glass) are welcomed.

# **The Friendly Communicator**

## **February 2025**

### **2025 Board and Council Meeting Dates**

Sunday, February 16 - Board & Council meetings  
Sunday, March 9 - Board & Council meetings  
Sunday, April 13 - Board meetings  
Sunday, April 27 - Quarterly Business meeting  
Monday, May 12 - Board & Council meetings  
Sunday, June 8 - Board & Council meetings  
Sunday, July 13 - Board & Council meetings  
Monday, August 11 - Board & Council meetings  
Sunday, September 14 - Board & Council meetings  
Sunday, October 12 - Board meetings  
Sunday, October 19 - Quarterly Business meeting  
Sunday, November 9 - Board & Council meetings  
Sunday, December 14 - Board & Council meetings

### **Laptop Operators' Schedule**

February 9, 2025 – Bonnie Holl  
February 16, 2025 - Becky Holl  
February 23, 2025 – Pete Moreno  
March 2, 2025 – Sarah Byleen  
March 9, 2025 – Addison Wood  
March 16, 2025 – David Schuttenhelm  
March 23, 2025 – Becky Holl  
March 30, 2025 – Pete Moreno  
April 6, 2025 – Bonnie Holl  
April 13, 2025 – Sarah Byleen  
April 20, 2025 – Addison Wood  
April 27, 2025 – David Schuttenhelm

# The Friendly Communicator

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What are we doing here? Why do we gather every Sunday in this place? This was a question I asked my students as they wrote their definition of worship. As we read through them, we noticed there were themes running through all of them. This is what we found. Worship should include:

1. Remembering Jesus by sharing communion.
2. Praying to God in Jesus's name
3. Singing songs in the love of Jesus
4. Preaching and teaching Jesus's words
5. Giving generously and enthusiastically to spread the good news and to care for the needs of the brother.

In I Corinthians 14: 26, 40, Paul tells us that all of these things that we do should be done in a manner that is decent and orderly and to build up the church/to share the Good News.

As you read through that list, know that when we gather on Sundays, that is what we are doing – singing, praying, remembering, giving and preaching **to build up the church (that's us!) and share the Gospel (that's the world!).**  
**See you on Sunday!**

Mary Schecher

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## Service



The design of this window suggests the universe (clouds, stars) and within the universe, the globe of the earth. The cross of Christ, symbolizing the Gospel, is planted on the earth. The meaning of this symbol, is that everyone has the duty and obligation to serve the Gospel, the Church, and his neighbor so that the kingdom of Christ is spread more and more over the earth and in the hearts of men.

[This window will be referred to in a sermon in February.]



# The Friendly Communicator

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The 2024 Christmas season was busy. Some of the events were covered in last month's Communicator. As normal, we started by "hanging of the greens" for the season. Then, we consumed John House's prepared light dinner and played a game.



The Sunday school presented a Christmas program.



We were welcomed each Sunday, and we lit candles. We also had a special "Seasonal Tunes" bell choir presentation after a Sunday service.



# The Friendly Communicator

## February 2025

We gathered together on Christmas eve and had our traditional service.



A “silent night, holy night.”

May the year 2025 be a good year for all of us, our city, our state, our country, and our world.

*This is the 104<sup>th</sup> of periodic historical articles.*