



The Discipler

January 2023



Annual Congregational Meeting
February 12, 2023

2022 Committee Annual Reports due no later than January 20th!

2023 Pledge

If you have not returned your 2023 pledge, it's not too late. Extra pledge cards and "Stewardship in Service" forms are located by the blue box on the table in front of the quilt hanging. You can put your completed forms in the blue box.

2023 Envelopes

The company we order our envelopes from lost our order. They are working to get our order here asap.

Hopefully, we will be receiving them soon.

We will let you know when they have arrived. Meantime, you can use a regular envelope or use one from the pews. We are sorry for the inconvenience.

Offering Envelopes



The Work of Christmas Begins

When the carols have been stilled,
When the star-topped tree is taken down,
When family and friends are gone home,
When we are back to our schedules

The work of Christmas begins:

- To welcome the refugee,
- To heal a broken planet,
- To feed the hungry,
- To build bridges of trust, not walls of fear,
- To share our gifts,
- To seek justice and peace for all people,
- To bring Christ's light to the world.

—by Michael Dougherty, a variation on Howard Thurman's
'When the Song of the Angels is Stilled'

Wishing you a Happy New Year
and blessed year ahead.

May God's light
guide your way in 2023.





Church Financial Report

Financial Report as of November 30, 2022

	<u>MO</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>YTD 11/30/2022</u>
Operating Income	\$13,480	\$208,330	\$228,550
Operating Expense	<u>\$16,563</u>	<u>\$213,820</u>	<u>\$209,358</u>
Net Inc. or (loss)	(\$3,083)	(\$5,490)	\$19,192
Cash for Operations (General Fund, Capital)	\$155,945		\$165,480
Other Funds (Fellowships, Restricted)	<u>\$34,982</u>		<u>\$29,177</u>
Total Checking/Savings	\$190,927		\$194,657

Legacy/Endowment Committee

The committee is saddened by the loss of our former committee member **Tom Mahon** this past month. He was a driving force in creating and managing this committee, and he will be greatly missed by all. We send our sympathy and prayers to Dorothy and all of her family.



No report was available at this time on the Endowment fund values.



Grant money is available from each of the funds, and if you would like to apply, please contact the church office for application forms. Committee members are: Cliff Freeman, Mike Gyorkos, Ron Beem, Tim Bohrer, Lori Smith, and Greg Wills.

We invite you to consider joining this committee as we welcome new ideas and perspectives in the management of these funds. This committee meets every other month or so and meetings usually last only 30-45 minutes in length. The next committee meeting will be determined at a later date.

Due to lack of attendance the Basics of Medicare educational program will be returning sometime in early spring 2023. Spread the word!

Please remember to check the Love Meal signup sheet each week to see where you can help. Meals are already planned and purchased, so help is needed in the preparing and packaging. Your help is always appreciated!

**SERVE ONE
ANOTHER
IN LOVE**
GALATIANS 5:13



It's a new year and a new opportunity to celebrate special dates with placing flowers on the altar. If you have something special to commemorate, you can order an arrangement by signing up on the flower chart that is against the window of the church office. Flower arrangements are from Merlin's and cost \$15, and payment is due the week before the arrangement is ordered.



Our sacred text is a collection of holy stories, passed down from people long ago and their understanding of God. We see this all throughout the various stories that we have received from our ancestors in faith.

As an example, look at Joshua 4:19-24: *"The people came up out of the Jordan on the tenth day of the first month, and they camped in Gilgal on the east border of Jericho. Those twelve stones, which they had taken out of the Jordan, Joshua set up in Gilgal, saying to the Israelites, 'When your children ask their parents in time to come, 'What do these stones mean?' then you shall let your children know, 'Israel crossed over the Jordan here on dry ground.' For the Lord your God dried up the waters of the Jordan for you until you crossed over, as the Lord your God did to the Red Sea, which he dried up for us until we crossed over, so that all the peoples of the earth may know that the hand of the Lord is mighty, and so that you may fear the Lord your God forever."* (NRSV)

The Israelites set up a physical symbol of their shared memory, so they could share their story and their account of their God. As a faith, we have the Bible and the shared stories that bring us all together. We also look to the cross, and when people ask, "What does the cross mean?" We say "Jesus died on the cross for us."

SOMETIMES YOU WILL NEVER KNOW THE VALUE OF A MOMENT UNTIL IT BECOMES A MEMORY.
DR. SEUSS

But the importance of memories aren't just for our global faith. They are also important for our community and our individual selves. We keep reminders of the people who built our church in the Lucy Woodcock room, to remind us of what traditions we carry on.

In the same way, it is important for us, as we reach a new year, to look back in a similar way. We all have our own personal experiences with God. So, as we go into a new year, it is healthy as a person of faith to ask ourselves some questions:

- How/Where have I experienced God in the past year?
- How has God proved faithful to me?
- Where have I encountered challenges in my life and faith?
- How can I celebrate or remember these experiences?



When we look back and share these memories, we create a sacred space, just like Joshua or the other ancestors of our faith. We build monuments, though they are not physical, that reminds us and others of our God's presence and activity throughout history.

So, as we begin this new year, let us look back and share. By doing this, we follow an ancient tradition of honoring and worshiping our God.

Let's make this New Year a year where we spread God's love!

Reverend Tyler Spellious



Interested in Membership?
Pastor Tyler will be holding an informational meeting for those who might be interested in becoming a member of UCB. The meeting will be held following morning worship on **Sunday, January 29th**, at approximately 11:30 am. The meeting should last about 30 to 45 minutes. If you are interested, we would appreciate it if you would call or email the office to let us know.





We extend our deep sympathy to the family of **Nancy Jaquet**. Nancy was the beloved wife of Wayne, mother of Lova Sutton and grandmother of Ali Groen and Amber Stivers. Her Celebration of Life was held here on Sunday, December 4th. Please keep all of the family in your prayers during this difficult time.

We extend our deep sympathy to Dorothy Mahon on the loss of her beloved husband, **Tom**. A celebration of Tom's life was held here at the church on December 8th. His presence will be missed but felt here within our congregation for some time. Please keep Dorothy and her and Tom's family in your prayers as they continue to mourn their loss.



Thank you to all who purchased poinsettias this Christmas. They really added to the beautiful Christmas Eve Service. If you ordered one, you can stop by the church during office hours and pick yours up.



"I would like to thank everyone for the kind and loving gifts for Christmas. It has been my honor and my complete joy to worship, pray, and care for our community this year with all of you. Your gifts really do help remind me how loved I am here. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!"
Pastor Tyler

Dear Friends,
Thank you so much for your thoughtfulness this Christmas season. The gifts, the cards and delicious treats were appreciated very much. The kindness and love you continually show me makes me feel so very blessed. You are all very important to me. I pray God will bless you in the coming year with many great memories and blessings.
Love, Carla

To my church family,
Thank you all so much for the lovely cards, thoughtful gifts, and delicious goodies at Christmas. Your kind words of appreciation and your generosity really touched my heart. I am truly blessed to live and work among such a caring and loving church community. I wish you all a very happy and healthy new year!
God's blessings to you all.
Love, Marsha



UCB Fellowship would like to thank those who baked or purchased goodies for our Cookie Walk and Bake Sale that was held December 10. As a result of your generosity, we were able to raise \$1,017 for our church's Love Meal ministry program. Many thanks also, to those that helped that day and those that helped organize it, and a very special thank you to Santa (aka Noah Hansen) for adding to the fun that morning. You helped make our day a little brighter!



St. Mary Church of Byron will be offering the *GriefShare* program again in 2023. It is open to everyone in the area, and will last for 14 weeks, on Mondays from 6-7:30 pm from January 16 through April 17, 2023. Meetings will be at St. Mary Church, 226 E. 2nd Street, Byron. *GriefShare* seminars and support groups are led by people who understand what you are going through and want to help. You'll gain access to valuable *GriefShare* resources to help you recover from your loss and look forward to rebuilding your life. You can attend as many sessions as you are able. For questions or more information, contact Ron or Rosemarie Edwards at 815-234-4549 or Roseedwards1@comcast.net or secretary@saintmaryinbyron.org.

A Funny for You

Church Staff Job Descriptions

Pastor: Able to leap tall buildings in a single bound. Is more powerful than a locomotive. Is faster than a speeding bullet. Walks on water. Gives policies to God.

Head Steward: Leaps short buildings with a running start. Is almost as powerful as a switch engine. Is faster than a speeding BB. Walks on water if aware where the stumps are. Talks with God if special request is approved.

Head Deacon: Clears a quonset hut. Loses race with locomotive. Can fire a speeding bullet. Swims well. Is occasionally addressed by God.

Music Director: Runs into small buildings. Recognizes locomotives two out of three times. Uses a squirt gun. Knows how to use water fountain. Mumbles to herself.

Church Secretary: Lifts buildings to walk under them. Kicks locomotives off their tracks. Catches speeding bullets in her teeth. Freezes water with a single glance. When God speaks she says, "May I ask who is calling?"



Potluck & Movie Night

Save the Date: Friday, January 13th! Potluck and Movie Night at the Breck's!

We always have tasty food, fun conversation, and an interesting movie.

We will gather at 6 pm for potluck with a movie (TBA) to

follow. The Breck's home is at 9002

Hedge Road, Byron.



Men's Breakfast

It's a new year! How about starting a new tradition of meeting on the 1st and 3rd Saturday at 8 am with some

of the men who have been going to breakfast at the

Swedish Pancake

House Restaurant for

awhile. All men are

invited to what is

"hoped" to be lively conversation. It *can* be if you come and participate!

There are lots of subjects! Religion, politics, wife complaints, children complaints...well maybe not that, but

there are your favorite sports teams, some you might even have in common with each other. Some of the

Chicago teams could use your great armchair advise! You can discuss this and send the coaches a memorandum with the solutions to their problems!?

There are many other *fun* subjects to discuss, but I'll leave those to you!



Adult Sunday CE

Adult Sunday CE will resume on January 8th, and we will begin a series of viewing sermons and lectures from Chautauqua Institution (CHQ). Several of us have attended CHQ or joined CHQ Assembly, the streaming version. "CHQ's mission is still rooted in a genuine exploration of the best in human values and the enrichment of life across four programmatic pillars — education, the arts, religion and recreation." We will begin with Rev. Yvette Flunder and Sister Jean Chittister (lecture divided over 2 weeks). Join us on Sunday, January 8th, 2023, in the Lucy Woodcock room at 9 am. If you have any questions, please contact Norma Freeberg 815-234-8511.



Rev. Yvette Flunder

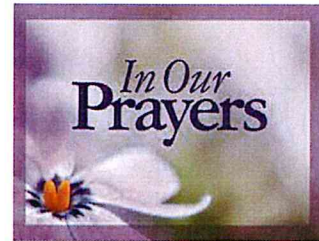
She is the senior pastor of the City of Refuge United Church of Christ in Oakland, California and Presiding Bishop of The Fellowship of Affirming Ministries.



Sister Jean Chittister

Jean Chittister, a Benedictine Sister of Erie, has dedicated her life to voicing questions that test popularly accepted truths of the day. She has a "Passion for God, a Passion for justice, and a Passion for life."

Denny Arjes
 Hannah Beintum
 Mark Belito
 Keith Benson
 Cheryl Bonte
 Steve Bonte
 Jennifer Brandt
 Norma Browning
 Susan Caruso
 Lisa Stevens Colbert
 Ginger Compton,
 Jill Faber
 Joann Farris
 Joe Farris
 Cindi Frye
 Jan Frye
 Ron Glisan
 Ali Groen
 Dave Groharing
 Betty Grubb
 Gary Hahn
 Nancy Hamer
 Pat Ingram
 Wayne Jaquet
 Kathy Johnson
 Janet Logan
 Sue Lydic
 Tony Maanavi
 Bill Michaux
 Betty Morris
 Meghan Newbold
 Pat Nicoloff
 Clyde Patterson
 Paul



Allan Petersen
 Judy Picha
 Edie Pierce
 Ellen Rippon
 Hal & Dixie Rowland
 Anna Saltzgiver
 Paul Saltzgiver
 Mary Sanders
 Diana Snodgrass
 Tori Spanbauer
 Linda Stein
 Barney & Sharon Sterbez
 Holly Stukenberg
 Stan Sutton
 Linda Tarpley
 Shelley Trussoni
 Karis Turner
 Josh VanBriesen
 Toby Way
 Diane Williamson
 Tim Wittmer
 Jerre Woodworth

Our Homebound, our first responders and health care workers, and those around the world in need of special prayers.

Jerrick & Tatiana Leon Orsted.



Abe Mulberry





SERVING THE CHURCH

If you are unable to serve on your scheduled Sunday, please switch with someone and notify the church office of the change as soon as possible. Thank you!

January 2023

	<u>1/01</u>	<u>1/08</u>	<u>1/15</u>	<u>1/22</u>	<u>1/29</u>
Acolyte	M. Gyorkos	T. Jenkins	Benson	Johnson	Smith
Scripture Rdr.	Sutton	Huls	Smith	K. Gyorkos	T. Bohrer
AV System	Freeman	Jenkins	Gyorkos	Bonte	Freeman
Guest Center	King	Wilson	Tarpley	Townsend	Trommer
Nursery	Schertz	Ingram	Wilson	King	Schertz
Nursing Home	M. Bohrer	T. Bohrer	M. Gyorkos	Townsend	Schertz

Offering Counters for January: Brad Townsend & Karyn Wilson
 Communion Preparer for January: Karyn Wilson

People Helping People Collection Items:
 Soup, Crackers & Kleenex

February 2023

	<u>2/05</u>	<u>2/12</u>	<u>2/19</u>	<u>2/26</u>
Acolyte	K. Gyorkos	M. Gyorkos	C. King	C. Beitel
Scripture Rdr.	D. Eisfeller	M. Bohrer	Schertz	J. Eisfeller
AV System	Jenkins	Gyorkos	Bonte	Freeman
Guest Center	T. Jenkins	Johnson	K. Gyorkos	M. Gyorkos
Nursery	Ingram	Wilson	King	Schertz
Nursing Home	Spellious	M. Bohrer	T. Bohrer	M. Gyorkos

Offering Counters for February: Curt Freeberg & Karyn Wilson
 Communion Preparer for February: Karyn Wilson

People Helping People Collection Items: Peanut Butter, Jelly and Cereal

Inclement Weather Message

Be sure to check your emails or TV stations when there is a bad snowstorm predicted. If we do get one, we will inform the TV stations that worship has been cancelled. We will also send out an email. If ever in doubt about the conditions, please use your judgement about getting out. Stay home if your unsure. We want you to be safe!



If you wish Pastor Tyler to visit you, and you would also like communion, please call him or call the church office. Pastor Tyler's phone number is 309-230-4951, and the church office is 815-234-8777.



COUNCIL

Curt Freeberg, Head Steward 815-234-8511
 Butch Huls, Steward 815-222-6252
 Ali Groen, Moderator, Steward 815-871-2304
 Brad Townsend, Steward 815-988-9348
 Norma Freeberg, Deacon 815-234-8511
 Lova Sutton, Head Deacon 815-871-2354
 Karyn Wilson, Deacon 815-222-9954
 John Gibson, Deacon 815-985-6524
 Cliff Freeman, Financial Secretary 815-978-6367
 Cindy Beitel, Clerk 815-234-8959
 Laura Hopkins Treasurer

COUNCIL MEETING

Third Monday of the Month
 Stewards and Deacons meet at 6 pm
 Full Council meets at 7 pm

Members of the congregation are welcome to attend council meetings.

CHAIRPERSONS

Adult Sunday School Norma Freeberg
 Building & Grounds Greg Beitel
 Community Connections Ann Schertz
 Endowment/Legacy Committee Cliff Freeman
 Fundraising Committee Ali Groen
 Memorial Committee Marsha Gyorkos
 Mission Committee Elaine Breck

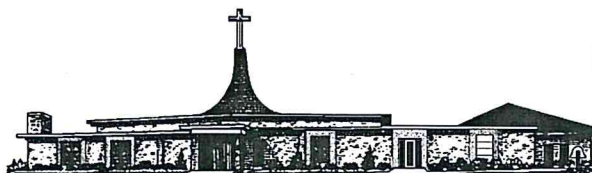
UCB FELLOWSHIP

Lydia Circle Diane Wheeler
 Esther Circle Carole Bolin



Our Mission Statement:

**Loving God and
Serving People**



The United Church of Byron

701 W. 2nd St. PO Box 927
 Byron, IL 61010-0927
 Phone: 815.234.8777
 Email: ucb@comcast.net

Church Facebook Page:

United Church of Byron, Illinois

Website: *unitedchurchofbyron.org*

Worship Times

8:15-8:45 am Meditation Service
 9:00-9:45 am Adult Sunday School
 9:30-10:15 am PreK-5th Grade Sunday School
 9:30-10:30 am Coffee Hour
 10:30 am Worship ~ Worship Service
 Communion served on 1st Sunday of the Month
 4:30-5:30 pm Fuel: 6th-8th Grade
 5:00 pm Dinner for Fuel & Spark
 5:00-7:00 pm Spark (9th-12th Grade)

Pastor: Rev. Tyler Spellious
 309-230-4951
 tylerspellious@gmail.com

Pastor's Office Hours

Tuesday: 10 AM - 1 PM
 Wednesday: 1 PM - 4 PM
 Thursday: 10 AM - 1 PM

Youth Ministry Coordinator

Richard Simpson

Church Secretaries

Carla Trommer Marsha Gyorkos

Secretaries Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, & Friday
 9:30-5:00 pm (Lunch: 12:30-1:30)

Choir Director/Accompanist:

Jennie Saltzgeber

Media Specialist

Bill Groen



January 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
1 2 pm UCB Serv. at Neighbors Communion HAPPY NEW YEAR 2023!	2	3 9:00 AM Esther Circle Mtg 3:30 PM Love Meals Prep 6:00 PM Cub Scouts	4	5 12:00 PM Rotary Club Mtg	6 	7 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast Missions Committee Annual Retreat																																																																																				
8 Unhanging of the Greens after Worship 	9 7:00 PM BY-Y Badgers 4H	10 3:30 PM Love Meals Prep 7:00 PM Lydia Circle Mtg	11	12	13	14																																																																																				
15 11:30 AM Community Connections Mtg	16 6:30 PM Stewards & Deacons Mtg 7:00 PM Council Mtg 	17 11:00 AM -2:30 PM Byron Women's Club in Fellowship Hall 3:30 PM Love Meals Prep	18	19 12:00 PM Rotary Club Mtg Newsletter DEADLINE	20 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> All Board and Committee Annual Reports Due Today! </div>	21 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast																																																																																				
22	23 7:15 PM Missions Mtg	24 3:30 PM Love Meals Prep	25	26	27	28																																																																																				
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