



2000 Wesley Avenue
Janesville WI 53545
608-752-0548
www.cargillumc.org

OUTDOOR FUN FOR EVERYONE

Winter Wonderland Fun Day

Sunday, January 14

2:30 - 5pm | West Entrance

All ages and families are welcome to attend an afternoon of winter fun!



**Sledding | Snow Person Building
Hot Cocoa | Pizza | Fellowship**

Inclimate weather? We will gather inside for games

**Registration is required to account for food
Signup at the Welcome Center or scan QR code**



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January 2024

YOUR NEXT STEP

Cargill United Methodist Church voted in November 2023 to say "yes" to capitalizing on its strengths and inviting new people to connect with God and one another.

It's time to take our next step.

On Page 2 of this month's newsletter, you'll see our invitation to consider where God is inviting you.

Pastors Steve Scott and Amy Powell are extending invitations to the entire congregation to participate as opportunities unfold over the next several months.

"This isn't a top-down process," Pastor Steve said. "This is the church speaking and moving. Pastor Amy and I are here to lead you to dive in."

In the meantime, let us continue to pray for God's breakthroughs:

Lord, light our way to see your limitless possibilities for our lives, the Church, and your world. Help us know what you want to accomplish through us. Ignite our desire to do your will. Amen!

TAIZÉ

ALL ARE INVITED TO AN EVENING
Taizé Prayer Service

JANUARY 17 | 6:30 PM

Prayers of Renewal

Where is God inviting you?

Cargill United Methodist Church has committed to a way forward that involves you. Our prayer is that God will use all of us to focus and maximize our fruitfulness for Christ. The steps below are suited for next-level transformational ministry at Cargill.

Team 1 | Igniting Volunteerism: Dynamite Prayer

You'll help create a congregation-wide 28-Day Dynamite Prayer experience in February 2024. Dynamite Prayer gives everyone in the church the opportunity to pray, listen, and name what next step God is stirring at their heart level.

Team 2 | Next Generation: Clarifying a Path Forward

You'll join with current leaders to offer "fresh eyes" to children's and youth ministry at Cargill. You'll help assess our existing ministry efforts and recommend potential next steps forward.

Team 3 | Decide: Step(s) of Faith

You'll work with church leaders to assess our church facility. You'll help decide how our facility can be more friendly to newcomers and how we can make better use of space.

Team 4 | Newcomer Connections: "First Friends" Groups

You'll help implement a "First Friends" initiative — a way to connect newcomers or current church members with new, short-term small groups so they can form friendships and make quicker connections to Cargill.

Team 5 | New Skills: Befriending the Unchurched

You'll learn how a congregation can connect with those who are not part of any church. You'll then help Cargill members learn skills to build relationships with people we don't yet know.

Team 6 | Growing Generous Givers

You'll partner with Pastor Steve to grow Cargill's generosity in supporting what God is doing in the church — now and into the future.

Questions

"Where do I fit in?"

Each person at Cargill is invited to consider one of the "next steps" listed above. Read over the list, and listen to where God is striking a chord with your interests, abilities, and dreams for the church.

"Who will I be working with?"

Members of the congregation who have expressed interest in the same prescription or members that were invited by the pastors. Each of these teams will also work with an outside ministry coach who has specific experience in these areas.

"When do these teams begin?"

The Dynamite Prayer team will begin in January 2024. The others will unfold as we go through 2024.

"What do I do next?"

Pray about where God might be calling you. Then return this form indicating which team most interests you.

Your chance to say "Yes"

I want to serve on a MCCI Team!

I am interested in joining Team # _____

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Best Contact Method (circle): Email Phone

Options for returning this form:

Place in offering box at Church | Drop at church 8:30am - 4:30pm

Mail to 2000 Wesley Ave., Janesville, WI 53545

Cargill staff

LEAD PASTOR

Rev. Steve Scott
steve@cargillumc.org

DISCIPLESHIP PASTOR

Rev. Amy Powell
amy@cargillumc.org

PASTOR OF SENIOR MINISTRY & VISITATION

Rev. Stu Allen
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DIRECTOR OF CARGILL CHRISTIAN LEARNING CENTER

Dawn Allen
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DIRECTOR OF MEDIA MINISTRY

Krystal Burton
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DIRECTOR OF MINISTRY RESOURCES | FINANCE & OPERATIONS

Valerie Schmoltdt
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DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Richard Severing
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OFFICE MANAGER

Jo Barrow
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BUILDINGS, GROUNDS & OPERATIONS

Gladis Albino, Custodian
Bill Horton, Maintenance
(interim)

MINISTRY COORDINATORS

Heidi Alderman, Nursery Care
Mark Banner, Audio-Visual/
Webmaster
Dianne Edson, Mercy & Justice
Ministries
Carmen Minch, Kitchen
Ministries (interim)

WORSHIP MINISTRIES

Pam Graper, Worship Musician
Brian Leeper, Organist
Brittney Mansur, Worship
Leader
Laurie Mitchell, Worship
Musician
Marie Severing, Choral Director

AROUND CARGILL & THE UMC

Carmen Minch has accepted the position of interim kitchen coordinator. Carmen, a longtime volunteer at Cargill, is a retired teacher. She taught family consumer education at Brodhead High School for 31 years. In this part-time position at Cargill, Carmen will plan and prepare meals and refreshments for the Bountiful Blessings community meal and special church-related events as they are scheduled. She will collaborate with our existing hospitality and kitchen volunteers and continue to volunteer for United Women in Faith events.

We extend gratitude to those newly elected and re-elected to lay leadership for 2024, and those whose terms concluded in 2023. Their names are included in our Annual Report, which members received by e-mail Dec. 14 and also is available in the church office.

Cargill offers rides to and from Cedar Crest Senior Living for the 9a worship service each Sunday. The Cargill bus picks up riders at 8:30a and returns at 10:30a. To sign up each week, call the church office at 608-752-0548.

You're invited to continue posting breakthroughs and God moments using sticky notes on the Garth windows.

Have you checked out the "Ministry Opportunities" bulletin board just inside the Fellowship Hall entrance (next to the coffee pots)?

Electric-assist door openers have been installed on the main bathrooms outside the Sanctuary.

As 2023 drew to a close, 22,500 of the UMC's 30,000 congregations remained in the denomination rather than disaffiliate. A window of opportunity expired Dec. 31 that allowed churches to leave with their property intact over disagreements about gay marriage and ordaining gay clergy. In Wisconsin, 400 congregations, or about 90 percent, remained in the UMC. The breakaway conservative Global Methodist Church said it now has more than 4,000 congregations. United Methodist bishops have denounced some of the new denomination's recruitment tactics. Other congregations that left the UMC became independent or joined other denominations.

Officially, UMC doctrine still forbids same-sex marriage or allowing "self-avowed, practicing" gay people to become clergy. The next two sessions of the General Conference, in 2024 and 2026, will again take up proposals to eliminate those restrictions, now that one-fourth of churches have disaffiliated. The General Conference also will consider proposals to create regional conferences that would allow customization in how the church applies social teaching in each region of the world.

UMC bishops voted to add an extra General Conference in 2026, to follow the next meeting scheduled for April 23-May 4, 2024, in Charlotte, N.C. Bishops decided the extra session was needed to accomplish necessary work because the 2020 General Conference was lost to the pandemic.

SENIORS

January Senior Meals

Anyone over 50 is welcome to join us for Senior Meals held at noon on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays in Fellowship Hall. The cost is \$8. Sign up on the Senior bulletin board in Fellowship Hall or call the church office (608.752.0548) by noon on the preceding Tuesday. The menus for January are:

January 4—chili, corn bread, salad and dessert

January 18—brunch for lunch, muffins, fruit and dessert

January Senior Lunch Out

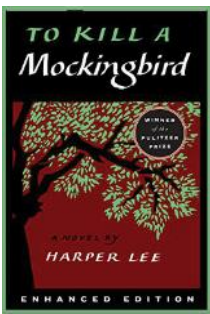
The January Lunch Out is scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 24 at 11:30a. We will meet at Bessie's Diner, 1716 W Airport Rd in Janesville. (a map is available behind the sign up sheet on the Senior bulletin board in Fellowship Hall). Rides are available. Please indicate that you need a ride when you sign up. Sign up by January 19 on the Senior bulletin board or call Val Geller at 608-752-3665.



BANNED BOOK CLUB—JAN 17

6:30p, Lounge

Book: *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee



Our first book of 2024 was substituted in many school districts in replace of *Dear Martin*, one of our previously discussed books. Several school districts and libraries have also banned *To Kill a Mockingbird*. The Arrowhead Library System has several copies available for checkout or hold. Copies are also available for purchase online. Please do your best to read the book before the discussion. Questions? Contact Dianne Edson Dianne@cargillumc.org.

PURPLE DOCUMENTARY DISCUSSION—JAN 20

10a, Room 106

The documentary, *Purple, America, We Need to Talk* follows a group of people at a retreat learning how to talk across a divide created by political differences. It isn't about changing minds but learning to talk and listen to each other.

We will watch the 22 minute documentary and discuss it. The goal is to acknowledge that different viewpoints are valid, and that those who hold them are not stupid or hateful. We will offer "Purple" viewings/discussions monthly to give anyone who is interested a chance to participate. The discussions are free and open to the public but please register using the QR code provided.



CONVERSATION WITH THE JANESVILLE PD—JAN 24

7p, Sanctuary

Officer Thompson from the Janesville Police Department will talk to us about violence in Janesville and how they work hard to mitigate behavior that can lead to violence.

Sponsored by the Mercy & Justice Committee



AGING GRACEFULLY—LOOKING UP EVENT—JAN 27

9a, Fellowship Hall

God calls us to love and serve our neighbors through our individual talents and purposes. It is through this calling that we understand our purpose according to God's plans. Join us as we explore our spiritual gifts, what they mean, and how they change as we age. During our exploration, we will fill shoe boxes for those in need in our community.

Registration is appreciated but not required. Register at the Welcome Center or scan QR code. After sign up, you will have an opportunity to take a spiritual gifts survey and to sign up to bring items to fill shoe boxes.



GIFTS THANKS

This is a big shout out to everyone who helped out during the December GIFTS week. Thank you! You are truly a blessing to all the men at the shelter.

Mark your calendar for the 2024 GIFTS weeks scheduled for 2024: March 3-9, June 16-22, Sept 1-7, and Nov 17-23.

FULFILLING CHRISTMAS WISHES



Thank you to everyone who purchased gifts for this year's Angel Tree! Your thoughtful generosity fulfilled 108 Christmas wishes for 12 people in four families in our community

GROWING GENEROUS GIVERS

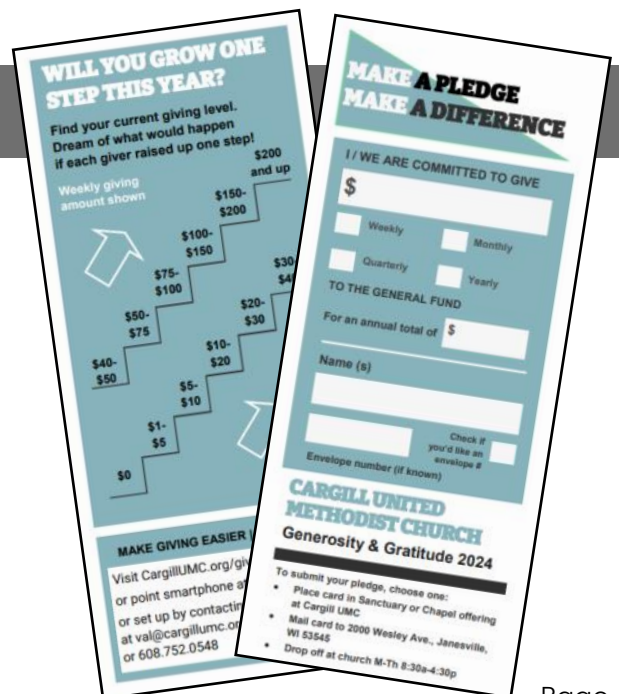
As Cargill UMC embraces new possibilities for sharing Jesus' love, will you prayerfully grow your financial contribution to the church in 2024?

Members and regular attendees received pledge cards inviting you to "Grow one step this year."

If you didn't receive a card, please e-mail val@cargillumc.org

You also can update your giving online at CargillUMC.org/giveonline

The latest complete financial statements for Cargill UMC are available by e-mailing val@cargillumc.org



MERCY & JUSTICE—2023 IN REVIEW

Angel Tree – We adopted four families through ECHO, and fulfilled a total of 108 Christmas wishes.

Banned Book Club – This group of rebellious readers discussed nine books this year. All the books had been pulled off public and school libraries for various reasons. We discussed the reasons as well as the consequences of making books inaccessible to children and youth. The books we read were: “1984” by George Orwell, “The Bluest Eye” by Toni Morrison, “The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian” by Sherman Alexie, “A Wrinkle in Time” by Madeleine L’Engle, “The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Moon-Light”, by Mark Haddon, “Gender Queer” by Maia Kobabe, “Catcher in the Rye” by J.D. Salinger, “Dear Martin” by Nic Stone, and “The 57 Bus” by Dashka Slater.

We also staffed a booth at the Multicultural Arts Fair at Hedberg library in August.

PURPLE Documentary Discussion – Eighteen people met to watch and discuss a short film capturing a small group of Americans with opposing viewpoints modeling what a healthy public discussion of contentious issues could look like, and coming to see some of the concerns and experiences behind each other's positions.

Community Conversations – The first two in a series of community conversations hosted by Cargill United Methodist Church, and presented by Pastor Steve Scott, about matters of faith & daily life. These events were entitled *Revisiting the First Amendment and Somewhere Under the Rainbow*.

Small-Group Study Examining Gun Violence in America – 25 people participated in this pastor-led study connecting our faith to our response to gun violence in our country.

VBS Mission Project – We staffed a table at the Babylon Marketplace, helping the children sort school supplies for the Midwest Mission Distribution Center.

Forgive Us Our Debt – We conducted a four-month campaign to raise money to pay off medical debt for our neighbors in Wisconsin and Illinois. With the \$7800 we raised, the non-profit organization RIPMedical Debt payed off \$1 Million in medical debt.

Speaking Across Differences – 30 church members spent a Saturday morning in a workshop led by the organization Resetting the Table. We learned and practiced several techniques we can use to make our difficult conversations respectful and effective.

Generous Giving – We continued to give financial and hands-on support to legacy organizations, such as ECHO, GIFTS, Project 16:49, Homeless High School Students, UMCOR. We also contributed to ministries in our own church, including Bountiful Blessings, LookingUp, United Women in Faith, Live Nativity.

Multiply Your Blessings – We launched our congregational outreach program, encouraging members to take on projects to help their neighbors, or other church members.

HUMAN RELATIONS SUNDAY

Human Relations Day – one of six United Methodist Special Sundays – is designed to celebrate and raise awareness to further the development of better human relations by involving congregations in community and youth outreach.

For more than a half-century, United Methodists have observed this churchwide Special Sunday in recognition of the message Jesus demonstrated during his life: All of God’s children are important.

This year’s observance will be January 13-14 in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s birthday. Donations received help to build King’s vision of “the beloved community” through programs such as Community Developers, United Methodist Voluntary Services, and Youth Offender Rehabilitation Programs. Donations may be made to Cargill UMC, noting the specific Special Sunday for which the gift is intended. Donations also can be made at CargillUMC.org/giveonline.

JANUARY 2024

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

24 Adult Bible Study 9:00 am – 10:00 am 10am Sunday Worship 10:00 am Family Christmas Eve Service 4:00 pm Candlelight Christmas Eve Service 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm Communion Christmas Eve Service 11:00 pm	25 Merry Christmas! Church Office Closed	26 Church Office Closed Aerobics 9:00 am – 10:00 am	27 Church Office Closed Aerobics 9:00 am – 10:00 am	28 Church Office Closed Aerobics 9:00 am – 10:00 am Bible Study 10:30 am – 12:00 pm	29 Church Office Closed Men's Bible Study 6:00 am – 7:00 am Aerobics 9:00 am – 10:00 am	30 Saturday Worship 5:00 pm
31 Adult Bible Study 9:00 am – 10:00 am 10am Sunday Worship 10:00 am	1 Happy New Year Church Office Closed	2 Aerobics 9:00 am – 10:00 am	3 Aerobics 9:00 am – 10:00 am	4 Aerobics 9:00 am – 10:00 am Bible Study 10:30 am – 12:00 pm Senior Meals 12:00 pm	5 Men's Bible Study 6:00 am – 7:00 am Aerobics 9:00 am – 10:00 am	6 Saturday Worship 5:00 pm
7 Adult Bible Study 9:00 am – 10:00 am Sunday Worship 9:00 am Sunday Worship 10:30 am Confirmation Class 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm	8 Goshen Quilters 8:30 am – 11:00 am Aerobics 9:00 am – 10:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm	9 Aerobics 9:00 am – 10:00 am Ruth Circle 9:00 am	10 Aerobics 9:00 am – 10:00 am	11 Aerobics 9:00 am – 10:00 am Bible Study 10:30 am – 12:00 pm	12 Men's Bible Study 6:00 am – 7:00 am Aerobics 9:00 am – 10:00 am	13 Saturday Worship 5:00 pm
14 Adult Bible Study 9:00 am – 10:00 am Sunday Worship 9:00 am Sunday School 10:30 am Sunday Worship 10:30 am Winter Wonderland Fun Day 2:30 pm – 5:00 pm	15 Goshen Quilters 8:30 am – 11:00 am Aerobics 9:00 am – 10:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm Adult Fellowship & Craft Night 5:00 pm	16 Aerobics 9:00 am – 10:00 am	17 Aerobics 9:00 am – 10:00 am Banned Book Club 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm Taizé Prayer Service 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm	18 Aerobics 9:00 am – 10:00 am Bible Study 10:30 am – 12:00 pm Senior Meals 12:00 pm	19 Men's Bible Study 6:00 am – 7:00 am Aerobics 9:00 am – 10:00 am	20 PURPLE Discussion 10:00 am – 12:00 pm Bountiful Blessings 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm Saturday Worship 5:00 pm
21 Adult Bible Study 9:00 am – 10:00 am Sunday Worship 9:00 am Sunday School 10:30 am Sunday Worship 10:30 am	22 Goshen Quilters 8:30 am – 11:00 am Aerobics 9:00 am – 10:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm	23 Aerobics 9:00 am – 10:00 am	24 Aerobics 9:00 am – 10:00 am Senior Lunch Out 11:30 am – 1:30 pm Converstation with JPD 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm	25 Aerobics 9:00 am – 10:00 am Bible Study 10:30 am – 12:00 pm Knitting and Crocheting 6:00 pm	26 Men's Bible Study 6:00 am – 7:00 am Aerobics 9:00 am – 10:00 am	27 Aging Gracefully 9:00 am – 11:00 am Soup Cook-Off 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm Saturday Worship 5:00 pm
28 Adult Bible Study 9:00 am – 10:00 am Sunday Worship 9:00 am Sunday School 10:30 am Sunday Worship 10:30 am	29 Goshen Quilters 8:30 am – 11:00 am Aerobics 9:00 am – 10:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm	30 Aerobics 9:00 am – 10:00 am	31 Aerobics 9:00 am – 10:00 am	<p>For the most up to date calendar, future months or to learn about a specific event visit scan the QR Code OR visit our website at www.cargillumc.org/calendar</p> 		



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Janesville, WI
Permit No. 206**

Come inside and warm up with a **SOUP COOK-OFF**

hosted by



United
Women
in Faith

To enter your soup, register at the Welcome Center
#1 soup will win a prize | 6 quarts required to enter

**Saturday January 27
12 - 1:30pm | Fellowship Hall**

Receive one cup for sampling all varieties of soup
\$10 per person includes drink and oyster crackers