

Updated with Education Report & Schedule - December 19, 2023

Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ
Annual Meeting of the Congregation
Sunday, December 17, 2023
11:00 A.M. – Following Worship

Officers

Mark Conrad, Moderator
Karen Maust, Treasurer
Karin Conrad, Secretary

Board of Deacons

Hilda Baeza, Chairperson Trustees
Patricia Cunningham, Elder
Laura Heaney, Chairperson Trustees - Retiring
Kari Kaczmarek, Trustee
Connie Kauffman, Elder
Roger Kauffman, Trustee
Patricia Mahar, Elder
Ralph (Hank) Maust, Trustee
Kris Minschke, Chairperson Elders
Jean Newcome, Elder
Barbara Salva, Trustee

Pastor

Rev. Ray Bagnuolo, Minister

Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ
131 Middle Road, Sayville
New York 11782

631-589-1519

Heather Corcoran, Church Administrator; churchadmin@sayvilleucc.org

www.sayvilleucc.org; www.facebook.com/sayvilleucc

www.echimestv.org – Livestreaming Channel

www.echimes.org – eChimes Newsletters

Sean Cameron, Music Director

Samantha and Dan Harr, Building and Grounds

Ray Bagnuolo, Pastor
ray@sayvilleucc.org; 631-827-8611 (text/voicemail)



Sunday, December 24, 2023
10 A.M. Fourth Sunday of Advent

Christmas Eve Services
Sunday, December 24, 2023
Family Service 5:30 PM
Lessons & Carols 7:30 PM

Please join us.

Agenda

- | | | | |
|------|---|-------------------------|----------|
| I. | Moderator ¹ | | |
| II. | Call to Order | Mark Conrad, Moderator | |
| III. | Opening Prayer | Mark Conrad, Moderator | |
| IV. | Pastor/Minister ² Comments | Ray Bagnuolo, Pastor | p. 5 |
| V. | Secretary/Clerk ³ Report | Karin Conrad, Secretary | pp. 6-7 |
| | a. Approval of Minutes from 2022 Annual Meeting | | |
| VI. | Treasurer ⁴ Report | Karen Maust, Treasurer | pp. 8-11 |
| | a. 2023 Year-to-Date Report | | |
| | b. 2024 Budget Proposal | | |

¹ (Constitutional Description) The Moderator shall preside at all official meetings of the Church and of the Board of Deacons and shall work with the minister and Board to set the agenda. The Moderator acts as the liaison between members of the Congregation and all Boards and Committees. The Moderator shall serve as the President of the Corporation.

² (Constitutional Description) The Minister shall be called by a vote of at least two-thirds of the members present at an official Congregational Meeting. He or she, as pastor and Teacher, shall minister to the spiritual welfare of the Church, being receptive to the Board of Deacons for advice, guidance and assistance. The Minister shall seek to enlist individuals as followers of Christ, preach the gospel, administer the sacraments, and have responsibility for all services of public worship and administration of the activities of the Church in cooperation with the Board of Deacons and Committees. The Minister shall be an *ex officio* member of the Board and Committees.

³ (Constitutional Description) The Secretary/Clerk shall record the proceedings of the Congregational Meetings and the Board of deacons of which he or she shall be a member and secretary. The Clerk shall be responsible for giving official notice of all Congregational Meetings. The Clerk shall keep a register with addresses of the members of the Church, dates and modes of their reception and removal, a record of births, baptisms and marriages, and shall be responsible for and preserve on file all communications and written official reports including letters of transfer.

⁴ (Constitutional Description) The Treasurer shall receive an accounting of all receipts and disbursements and shall direct management of all Church funds in accordance with the policies of the Board of Deacons and the budget approved by the Covenant Members. He or she shall make a full report to the Annual Meeting and such other reports as may be requested by the Church. The Treasurer shall serve as the Chairperson of the Finance Committee as well as the Treasurer of the Corporation.

VII.	Congregational Life Review	Ray Bagnuolo, et al	p. 12
VIII.	32 nd Victorian Tea Committee Report	Connie Kauffman	p. 13
IX.	Prayer Shawl Ministry	Patricia Mahar	p. 14
X.	Justice Action Committee	Jeanne Newcombe	p. 15
XI.	Education/Sunday School	Laura Langlan/Jeannine McKenna	p. 16-17
XII.	Deacon Elders	Kris Minschke	p. 18
XIII.	Deacon Trustees	Laura Heaney	p. 19
XIV.	Nominating Slate	Susan Ryan	p. 20
XV.	Other/Addendum – General Constitutional Guidelines (Reference) ⁵		p.21-2
XVI.	Closing Prayer		
XVII.	Adjourn		

⁵ Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ Constitution is online www.sayvilleucc.org
Click *Constitution* in Menu

IV. Ray Bagnuolo, Pastor Comments

Friends, today you will hear and read about the life of this congregation; a congregation that is resilient and determined in loving one another and the world in which we live. For more than 175 years, *this* church on Middle Road has served *this* community and beyond in the ways you practice your faith and lives together. Your history and present; your service to one another here and online; and your radical hospitality powerfully reflect these beliefs, made stronger by the ways in which you embrace God and all who enter here.

Frequently, when I am asked by folks what we do here, I begin with, “We love one another;” – on the good days and the not-so-good days. It is that love which touches people locally and across the Internet. We often hear from visitors and newcomers about how “welcoming and warm” they feel when they are here – or visit us on our YouTube Channel. Perhaps that is what God most *feels* like: *welcoming and warm*. It certainly describes you.

And “this” is who you are, in all the ways I know you. A congregation that comes from deep places of conviction and hopefulness. People who set resignation aside and find ways to do what they can, even as you and I struggle with the slow pace of justice, a struggle that sometimes clouds the gifts of all that has been and is being done – by us all.

As you listen to these reports or read them at your leisure, think of what you have been able to do, are doing, hope to do – and then consider for a moment what would *not be happening* were you not here; not doing what you are doing. This congregation *is* present in this world– because you bring your amazing selves here and create something new, time and time again.

In the weeks ahead, you will be entering into a time creating something new; a time of reflection and discernment as you consider the path of calling your next pastor. There will be much said over the next few weeks about the process (which can begin only after I leave, according to denominational guidelines). For now, let me say that I will be sad to go. It is hard to leave the people I love and the ministry you have given me - in serving you. And yet there is such joy in what you will offer to someone on their way to you. I am joyful for you and for them. And, I believe it: “You’ve only just begun, again!”

Please know that my gratitude and first-hand knowledge of what it is to be called by this congregation – makes me excited for the next person who will come to know you and your beautiful hearts. In all the healing and love we have shared, please know how I have been healed by you, in ways I didn’t even know I needed.

It will always be more than it is...may you see the more in these reports and all the faithful and questioning who are here, visit online and are to come at Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ.

With love,

Ray Bagnuolo, Pastor
Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ
December 17, 2023 (Edited for clarity on 12/19/2023)

V. Secretary's Report – Submitted by Karin Conrad

Our 2022 Annual Meeting of the congregation was held on December 11, 2022. A quorum was present. Those attending in person were:

Acker, Bob; Acker, Gail; Baeza, Hilda; Bagnuolo, Ray; Cesare, Elise; Cesare, Jimmy; Conrad, Mark; Conrad, Karin; Dominguez, Heather; Heaney, Laura; Jayne, Judie; Jayne, Mike; Kaczmarek, Kari; Kauffman, Connie; Kauffman, Roger; Lanchantin, Sue; Leis, Kathy; MacGowen, Jane; MacGowen, Marion; Mahar, Patricia; Mandell, Marie; Maust, Hank; Maust, Karen; Minschke, Kris; Murphy, Jenna; Newcombe, Jean; Ryan, Susan; Lorraine Severin, Lorraine; Smith, Roberta; Wolf, Kay; Wolf, Tom.

Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ Annual Meeting Minutes December 11, 2022, 11:15 AM

1. Moderator Welcome
2. Call to Order by Moderator Mark Conrad
3. Opening Prayer
4. Pastor Comments Welcome and thanks to the congregation as we continue to come out of COVID and returning to our regular ways growing and sharing times together.
5. Secretary's Report: Karin Conrad, Secretary Presented 2021 Annual meeting minutes and also added addendum informing the change to a new meeting format of the Deacon Elders and Trustees Combined Board Meeting. Approval of Minutes from 2021 Annual meeting. Motion: Karen Maust; Seconded: Sue Lanchantin Invited discussion. All in Favor 27 Opposed 0 Abstaining 3
6. Treasurer's Report Karen Maust, Treasurer 2022 Year to date Report and proposed 2023 budget presented. Question answered: A pledge year is calculated annually. Motion: Jenna Murphy, Seconded: Connie Kauffman All in favor 26. Opposed 0 Abstaining 4
7. Congregational Life in Review Presented activities undertaken during 2021 to continue the life and mission of the church.
8. 30th Victorian Tea Committee Report, Connie Kauffman
9. Prayer Shawl Ministry, Patricia Mahar Meetings Thursday 10:00AM
10. Justice Committee, Jeanne Newcombe
11. Deacon Elders, Kris Minschke

12. Deacon Trustees, Laura Heaney. Many thanks to Tom Wolf and Laura Weyant our caretaker for their service.
13. Nominating Committee, Susan Ryan. Invited congregation to bring forth any nominees interested serving on the boards. The following slate of leaders for the 2023 was brought forth: Officers: Mark Conrad, Moderator; Karen Maust, Treasurer; Karin Conrad, Secretary; Board of Deacons: Patricia Cunningham, Elder; Hilda Baeza, Trustee; Laura Heaney, Chairperson Trustees; Kari Kaczmarek, Trustee; Connie Kauffman, Elder; Roger Kauffman, Trustee; Patricia Mahar, Elder; Ralph (Hank) Maust, Trustee; Kris Minschke, Chairperson Elders; Jean Newcombe, Elder; Barbara Salva, Trustee. Motion: Ann Walker; Second Sue Lanchantin Discussion: none All in favor 27 Opposed 0 Abstaining 3.
14. Other Business None
15. Closing Prayer
16. Adjourn 2022 Annual Meeting Motion Gail Acker. Second Laura Heaney Discussion None All in Favor 28 Opposed 0 Abstaining 2

Secretary's Report
Karin Conrad, Secretary
December 17, 2023

Addendum to Report

In 2022, we have continued to extend our extravagant welcome, welcoming 18 new members into our congregation! We are so happy they have found us and want to be a part of our congregation. We have also lost 3 members with our total membership being at 107.

We are happy to have added a Gun Legislation Committee, Christian Education Committee, and a Rebel Readers Group to our continuing missions. Thank you to all the members who worked to bring them about.

We are currently working on transitioning to a new pastor. We would like to thank Ray for all he has done during his time with us, and for helping us during this process. Ray's leadership has been instrumental in making this congregation even stronger after COVID by helping us stay connected with each other online when we needed community the most. Although we will miss his presence here, we are very grateful for all the work he has done with us to ensure we are prepared for this transition. We send Ray off on his new adventure with love and wishes for only the best to come to him.

We continue to meet monthly on the second Saturday of the month from 10:00AM-12:00PM. Meetings, as well as any change from this schedule, will be noted on our website calendar. As always any member of the congregation is welcome to come to our meetings. For anyone interested in serving on the board, attending a meeting would enable you to get a better idea of what the board does.

End of Addendum

VI. Treasurer's Report – Karen Maust, Treasurer

Report of the Treasurer
Period ending November 30, 2023

The good news as we started 2023 was that we ended 2022 with several windfall donations which impacted the carry-forward amount budgeted at the 2022 Annual Meeting. The original budgeted amount was \$7,500 and ended up at \$19,888.

The Board of Deacons were able to approve the use of the additional \$12,388 to increase the Capital Improvement line to \$22,388. This enabled The Church to approve a new roof for Fellowship Hall and other needed work.

As of the end of November 2023 the Year-to-Date Total Operating Income is \$228,422 against a plan of \$228,102 (+340) Total Giving for the period is \$147,414 against a YTD plan of \$148,958(-\$1,544 or -1%).

The Expense YTD is \$220,474 against a YTD plan of \$228,102 (+\$7,628) and our cash flow is in the positive column(\$7,948).

We have weathered both figurative and actual storms (the Ed Building flood and damage). Thanks to Pastor Ray, who kept the entire project on track and very well managed, we prevailed with a good insurance settlement to address the needed repairs .

As we come into this wonderful season, we have much to be thankful for and we go forward in planning our future with hope, thanks and gratitude.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Maust, Treasurer

2024 – Budget Proposal Review
Presented by Ray at the December Board Meeting
Following the Budget Committee Proposal

General Suppositions

1. For the purpose of this budget, we have projected:
 - a. Pastor's *Terms of Call* in 2024 to remain at 2023 levels.
2. This budget does not engage in any projection of what the Search Committee will recommend at the appropriate time for the next pastor's *Terms of Call*.
3. We have projected the following for purposes of forming a budget.
 - a. January 2024 Current Terms of Call for Ray's last month.
 - b. February – August Pulpit Supply at \$200/wk – Approx. \$6,000
 - c. September – December New Pastor at current Terms of Call.
4. Following #3's projections:
 - a. We project about \$25,000 (over the next 12 months) for five months of a pastor: (January, September, October, November, December).
5. Staffing and Administrative Short Summary:
 - a. Five-month Pastor over the next 12 months.
 - b. Seven-months of pulpit supply
 - c. Church Administrator position increased to 5 days a week, 7 hours a day
6. Following these projections:
 - a. 2023 Income & Expenses: \$248,838
 - b. 2024 Income & Expenses: \$242,105
7. It can be said that this is a conservative budget, considering
8. the year ahead. If giving remains at 2023 level or above and/or if it takes longer to transition to the next pastor we improve our financial position. (Ray)

**BUDGET PRESENTATION
INCOME**

	2023 Budget	YTD 11/30/23	Proposed 2024 Budget
Total Giving	162,500.00	147,414.00	162,500.00
Season Mission Offerings	2,500.00	3,235.00	2,500.00
Sharing a Meal Offset	12,300.00	11,275.00	12,300.00
United PreSchool Offset	33,000.00	27,500.00	34,155.00
Building Use Offset	7,500.00	7,118.00	8,500.00
Interest Dividends	150.00	138.00	150.00
Fundraising	11,000.00	13,511.00	12,000.00
Operating Carry Forward*	19,888.00	18,231.00	10,000.00
TOTAL INCOME	248,838.00	228,422.00	242,105.00

EXPENSES

Denominational Expenses

	2023 Budget	2023 YTD	2024 Budget
OCWM-UCC	10,000.00	7,500.00	10,000.00
Suffolk Association Dues	700.00	735.00	800.00
Season and Mission Giving	6,000.00	2,414.00	6,000.00
Sub-Total	16,700.00	10,649.00	16,800.00

Facilities and Operations

	2023 Budget	2023 YTD	2024 Budget
Capital Improvement	22,388.00	18,008.00	13,000.00
Utilities	28,500.00	22,406.00	26,500.00
Telephone/Internet	4,800.00	4,404.00	5,000.00
Maintenance/Contracted Svcs	18,000.00	19,243.00	18,000.00
Maintenance Supplies	1,800.00	1,764.00	1,800.00
Printing/Paper/Copier	2,500.00	2,857.00	3,000.00
Postage	1,000.00	701.00	1,000.00
Sub-Total	78,988.00	69,383.00	68,300.00

Programming

	2023 Budget	2023 YTD	2024 Budget
Congregational Life	500.00	674.00	1,000.00
Public Relations	1,500.00	1,179.00	1,500.00
Conferences & Retreats	0.00	0.00	0.00
Worship Expense	1,500.00	1,554.00	1,500.00
Justice Ministry	600.00	486.00	1,000.00
Youth: Christian Ed/School	600.00	74.00	1,000.00
Parish Resource Center	350.00	350.00	350.00
Sub-Total	5,050.00	4,317.00	6,350.00

Salaries**Pastor Terms of Call (60%)**

	2023 Budget	2023 YTD	2024 Budget
Pastor Salary	42,400.00	38,838.00	
Pastor Furnishings	4,200.00	3,850.00	
Pastor Mileage	2,500.00	2,292.00	
Pastor Retirement	5,800.00	5,317.00	
Pastor Health & Disability	1,200.00	1,101.00	
Pastor Social Security Offset	3,534.00	3,240.00	
Pastor Discretionary Fund	1,200.00	908.00	
Pastor Continuing Education	1,000.00	0.00	
Sub-Total Pastor Terms of Call	61,834.00	55,546.00	25,000.00

	2023 Budget	2023 YTD	2024 Budget
Music Director	24,000.00	21,971.00	24,840.00
Guest Music	1,575.00	1,250.00	1,575.00
Church Administrator	26,850.00	24,670.00	46,155.00
Guest Preacher	1,225.00	875.00	6,000.00
SS/Medicare/ UN/INS.	3,881.00	3,943.00	5,431.00
Sub-Total Non-Pastor	57,531.00	52,709.00	84,001.00
Total Salaries	119,365.00	108,255.00	109,001.00

	2023 Budget	2023 YTD	2024 Budget
Insurance	28,735.00	27,870.00	35,000.00
Transition/Search			6,654.00

Total EXPENSES	248,838.00	220,474.00	242,105.00
TOTAL INCOME	248,838.00	228,422.00	242,105.00

Surplus/Deficit	0.00	7,948.00	0.00
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VII. Congregational Life Review for 2023

In part, these are some of the ways in which we live into our congregational life together. Thank you for filling out hearts and those we serve with all your gifts.

Pastoral Care/Mission Life/Outreach

1. A safe, clean and well-lit campus
2. Annual Support of Food Pantry
3. Bible Jam
4. Blessing of the Animals
5. Budget Committee
6. Building Use – Others
7. Building Use by 12 Step Programs
8. Building Use by Irish Step
9. Deacon Call List
10. Care of our Grounds and Properties
11. Chair Yoga
12. Chancel Choir
13. Community Engagement
14. Deacon Elders and Deacon Trustees Guidance and Care
15. Deacon's Fund & Benevolence
16. Easter Morning Polish Breakfast
17. Easter Sunrise on the Great South Bay
18. Emergency Management & Building Repair
19. Greening of the Sanctuary and Creche
20. Gun Legislation Committee
21. Hospital and Home Visitation
22. Justice Committee
23. Justice Luncheon
24. Media Interviews – Suffolk County News
25. Media Outreach Team – Livestreaming and Archiving
26. Media Presence: Website, eChimes, TV Channel, Facebook
27. Music Programs
28. Nominations Committee
29. Office Support
30. Participation in Clergy Groups
31. Participation in Sayville Annual Prayer Gathering – Raynor & D'Andrea
32. Participation in the Suffolk Association of the United Church of Christ
33. Prayer Life and Prayer List
34. Prayer Shawl Ministry Group
35. Pride Month Recognition
36. "Purple Bag" Drive for Food Pantry
37. Rebel Readers Book Club
38. Sanctuary Return Committee (including Phone Contact)
39. Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ Mission Support
40. Shabbat with Local Temple
41. Stewardship Committee
42. Sunday School
43. Support of Foster Care Families and Youth
44. Support of LGBTQ/Al+ Community
45. Support of Long Island Transgender Community - TDOR
46. Support of Newborns – Pack and Play; Strollers; Car Seats
47. Support of Sharing a Meal
48. Support of United Pre-School
49. Support through Deacons Fund
50. The Chancel Choir and Choir Rehearsals
51. The 32nd Victorian Tea
52. United Church of Christ Mission Support
53. Weddings, Baptisms
54. Weekly eChimes Newsletter www.echimes.org
55. Weekly Hospitality
56. Worship and Worship Leadership

VIII. 32nd Victorian Tea

Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ Report of the 32nd Victorian Tea, November 17 & 18, 2023

Last year's report concluded with the statement that the 31st tea would be hard to beat. This year's tea had many "firsts" that did indeed exceed all prior records. To wit: It was the first time that our weather was sunny both days! That may have contributed to the ebullient atmosphere that permeated the event. Every sitting was filled with happy people in the tea room! A first-time visitor asked, "Who is your caterer?" and there were raves about the food throughout the two days. We also had our first walk-in, a lovely woman from Turkey who was visiting from the south, just because she likes Sayville. She even went to the thrift store and bought a hat to wear!

We had kept our post-COVID practices for air flow and table numbers, but reinstituted the Best Handmade Victorian Hat prize, which were crocheted by Diane Vaughan, our newest member. Our wonderful and hard-working committee was augmented by friends and members of the congregation to the degree that, from set-up, dining room servers, kitchen and fellowship hall food prep and dish washers, raffle ticket sellers, coat checkers, door assistants, train runners, raffle basket/gift donors, one very funny master of the warm welcome, and clean-up, we were fully supported and ran "like a top"! And you might have seen the video of our perhaps best "first", that of our parade of staff through the dining room at the end of the final sitting, to show our visitors just how many workers there are behind the scenes that make the tea run so spectacularly well. Everybody loves a parade, so we are keeping it, and will do it at the end of both days in the future.

We were blessed with the beautiful music of Lisa Kelly, our harpist, and, due to the generosity of our congregants and local merchants, we raffled off eighty baskets using a new ticket method suggested by Jenna Murphy that worked very well! Despite having fewer tables and baskets, we still made more for the church than before, and brought the community together, serving more than 220 in our 32nd event. We are beyond grateful for the widespread and energetic support from everyone who contributed to this year's success. Speaking of....

While this year's tea had many firsts, it was nevertheless Pastor Ray's last tea. He has been a wide reaching and indomitable cheerleader for the tea since he joined us seven years ago. He has always generously contributed to the raffle and appeared at the beginning of every sitting, in his very dapper tuxedo(s), and welcomed everyone in his inimitable funny/sincere/embracing way that we will all miss. He brought each group "into the fold" with a mini-sermon that I suspect contributed to everyone's good mood. All in five minutes. We are so very grateful for all Pastor Ray has done and been for our tea, including being one of the many folks who make it happen. Our thanks have no limits, just like the energy, compassion, humor and love that we have been the lucky recipients of from Pastor Ray.

Respectfully submitted by Connie Kauffman, Chair, Victorian Tea Committee

Members: Hilda Baeza, Elise Cesare, Karin Conrad, Kari Kaczmarek, Sue Lanchantin, Kathy Leis, Patricia Mahar, Karen Maust, Gini McLaughlin, Kris Minschke, Jenna Murphy, Barbara Poulos, Susan Ryan, Lorraine Severin, Roberta Smith, Diane Vaughan

IX. Prayer Shawl Ministry

Our Prayer Shawl ministry continues to knit and crochet prayer shawls, lap robes, baby blanket and hats and scarves. This year we have again distributed nineteen baby blankets to the Suffolk County Foster care program to be given as needed.

We also have given over 30 prayer shawls and lap robes to family and friends in need of warmth and comfort. Some have been neatly arranged on our pews to enable people to choose one for someone they know needs comfort.

We have made twenty-one hat and scarf sets with seven single scarves and three hats distributed to Sharing a Meal and ten hats given to the Sayville Public library for the hat and mitten drive for the winter season.

Our annual Advent purple bag food drive continues with donations given to the Greater Sayville food pantry.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry continues to meet once a week and we look forward to other knitters and crocheters who might like to join our happy and loving group.

Faithfully submitted by,
Patricia Mahar

X. Justice Action Committee

As a committee, we are constantly aware of all the challenges facing our communities on a daily basis. In our small way, we are trying to shed light on foster care, immigration, sex and human trafficking, labor trafficking, gun violence, LGBTQAI+, and women's abortion rights.

This year we continued to support the youth in the Suffolk County Foster Care Program. We purchased additional Pack n' Plays for teen mothers, so they could bring home their babies to a safe, sleeping environment.

In May, we hosted a luncheon on the topic of sex trafficking. Our keynote speaker was James Johnson, a detective with the Human Trafficking Investigation Unit, Kidnap Investigation Team and FBI Child Exploitation/ Human Trafficking Task Force. Detective Johnson was responsible for closing the Sayville Motor Lodge, where the owners were compliant in trafficking young local women. In attendance there were over forty County, non-profit, state elected, judicial, library and pastoral officials. It was a lively gathering, where information and ideas were exchanged.

Presently, our committee has pivoted to support the newly formed Gun Legislation Committee. We are contacting our Congress representative and others, to encourage them to support legislation to ban assault weapons.

We will continue to be a voice for those whose voices are not heard.

Respectfully submitted:

Jean Newcombe- Chairperson

Laura Heaney

Kristine Houghtalen

Connie Kauffman

Debby Langstaff

Karen Gunkel-Lewis

Patricia Maher

Kris Minschke

Sylvia Sewell

XI. Church School Committee

Chairpersons: Laura Langlan and Jeanine McKenna

Committee Members: Kristine Houhtalen, Jean Newcombe, Kris Minschke

Sunday School is off to a great start! We've had three weeks: the first week there were four children, the second week there were seven children and the third week there were three children. The first week the children were visited by the Prophet Isaiah who informed them a child was to be born who would bring great light to the world and would be named Emmanuel. They also learned the many different names for Jesus: Emmanuel, Prince of Peace, Everlasting Father, Wonderful Counselor. The children tasted foods from the time of Isaiah such as pita bread and grapes and put "red hots" on their lips to feel how the coal must have felt to Isaiah when it was put upon his lips. The children then made drawings of Seraph-the six winged angel who had visited Isaiah.

The second week we revisited the Prophet's vision and also talked about the season of waiting. We lit the first candle on our advent wreath and talked about Hope. We also completed an art project portraying the Promise of Isaiah, the Period of Waiting and the Birth of Jesus.

The third week we again talked about the promise of Jesus and the period of advent, lighting our second candle of Peace. We talked about the Peace Jesus brought into the world and how we may also bring Peace and Light into the World. We then played a game with flashlights, finding hidden messages in the darkness. We talked about how our world can be dark and how we can be the light for others and how when we put all our flashlights together, the world is brightest.

The Committee met this past Monday and finalized our next four week rotation which will run from January 7-28 (though we decided not to have school on the 28th). This rotation will focus on Matthew 5: 13-16 and how we may be the Salt and the Light in the World. We also began planning the February rotation which will focus on how we pray.

There is a lot of energy and excitement both in the planning of the lessons and in the school itself and joy is certainly being had by all!

(Following is the Sunday School Schedule for January 2024)



SUNDAY SCHOOL

A ROTATIONAL MODEL

1/7, 1/14, 1/21, 1/28

10:00 AM IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

All ages and abilities are welcome

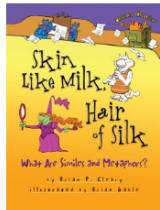
Salt of the Earth - Light of the World

Matthew 5:13-15

Week 1 - Storytelling

Understanding Metaphaphors
What does it mean
to be the
Salt of the Earth?

Led by Sylvia Sewell



Week 2 - Art

What does it mean to be
the light of the world
Showing our "colors"
through art and
music

Led by Jeanine McKenna
Kari Kaczmarek



Week 3 - Cooking

Compare and contrast taste and color
Making Salt dough window ornament

Led by Laura Langlan



Week 4 - Family Church

Families will be in church this Sunday
to celebrate our time with Pastor Ray



Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ

131 Middle Road, Sayville, NY 11718

631-589-1519 www.sayvilleucc.org

XII. Deacon Elders

Deacon Elders

From last year's report: "This year has been a busy year as we began transitioning back to a more "normal" worship after 2 years of pandemic restrictions." This year has continued that trend – we are even hugging (cautiously and mindfully) during passing of the peace! And we are growing with new members, new initiatives (Sunday school, gun legislation, banned book club), and new energy.

As we look forward to 2024, it is with sadness at the departure of a beloved Pastor and hope, resolve, and probably a good measure of anxiety as we work towards finding that person who is out there ready to answer our call. And as we move through these exciting and challenging days it is even more important than ever to maintain contact with each other.

To that end, the Elders will be redesigning the call list created during the pandemic. We have so many new names to add and sadly a few to drop. We will also be tweaking it to better serve each of us. So look to hear more about this I. The new year.

And please know that each member of the Elder Deacons is happy to answer any questions you may have regarding worship and this time of transition.

Respectfully submitted, the Elder Deacons

Pat Cunningham

Connie Kauffman

Patricia Mahar

Kris Minschke

Jeannie Newcombe

XIII. Deacon Trustees

This briefly describes the role of Deacon Trustee in our Congregation, and is taken from our most recent document:

“Three to five Deacon Trustees shall be elected from the Covenant Membership of the Church. The Deacon Trustees shall be ordained into the diaconate and shall be responsible for all matters pertaining to corporate management of the Church and its resources to include, but not be limited to, stewardship, physical property oversight, personnel management and, in conjunction with the treasurer, the management of Church funds. Deacon Trustees, in conjunction with Deacon Elders, shall approve the hire of all staff serving in mission-related positions, including Worship Musicians and Christian Educators. Deacon Trustees shall approve the hire of all personnel in non-mission functions, to include but not be limited to those responsible for care and maintenance of physical properties. Deacon Trustees shall divide these responsibilities among themselves and shall form such teams and *ad hoc* committees as needed to fulfill their duties. The treasurer shall serve as an *ex officio* member of the deacon trustees.”

The following is a summary of various projects that the Trustees oversaw in 2023,

1. Replacement of the floor, removal of the asbestos tiles and extensive repairs to classrooms in the Ed Building following a serious water break.
2. Replacement of the roof on the Fellowship Hall and the Preschool.
3. Evaluation by the Steward Preservation Services of the Church building and the repairs needed.
4. Replacement of doorknobs in kitchen and vestry and other areas to be more accessible.
5. Update of the heating system in Ed Building, including installation of a new water heater.
6. Reinforcement and repairs of baseboard heating covers in Preschool (thank you Barbara and Mark)
7. Established new relationship with Samantha and Daniel Harr, Building and Grounds support, as Laura transitions.

Our committee continues to work diligently in the many responsibilities of the Trustees and welcome the continued support of the congregation.

Thank you, Hilda Baeza, Chairperson
Trustee Members: Laura Heaney, Kari Kaczmarek, Roger Kauffman,
 Hank Maust, Barbara Salva

XIV. REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee recommends the following slate of leaders for the 2023 term, noting the following:

1. We share our great thanks and love to Laura Heaney who will be completing her term as Deacon Trustee at the close of 2023. Thank you, Laura for being trusted stewards and leaders in our congregation.
2. We are excited to recommend for the open position of Deacon Trustee, Gail Keiser, if the way be clear.

Officers

Mark Conrad, Moderator

Karen Maust, Treasurer

Karin Conrad, Secretary

Board of Deacons

Hilda Baeza, Chairperson Trustees

Patricia Cunningham, Elder

Laura Heaney, Trustee

Kari Kaczmarek, Trustee

Connie Kauffman, Elder

Roger Kauffman, Trustee

Patricia Mahar, Elder

Ralph (Hank) Maust, Trustee

Kris Minschke, Chairperson Elders

Jean Newcome, Elder

Barbara Salva, Trustee

Nominating Committee

Susan Ryan

We appreciate your assistance in coming forward either to serve or with a nomination to serve for the open position.

Respectfully submitted:

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Susan Ryan', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Susan Ryan, Chair on behalf of the Committee

XV. Addendum

General Constitutional Descriptions

BOARD DESCRIPTIONS

Board of Deacons: The Board of Deacons is a representative body comprised of all currently serving Deacons. It shall be the final decision-making body between Congregational Meetings, working closely with the Minister in the spiritual and institutional affairs of the Church. Specifically, the Board of Deacons is charged with ensuring the resources of the church are utilized in a manner consistent with Christ's mission for the church and in accordance with this Constitution and By-Laws. The Board of deacons shall consist of three to five Deacon Elders, three to five Deacon Trustees, and the three elected officers of the Church. The Board of Deacons shall meet regularly as needed, not to be less frequent than once a quarter. The Minister shall serve as an *ex officio* member of the Board of Deacons.

Deacon Elders: Three to Five Deacon Elders shall be elected from the Covenant membership of the Church. The Deacon Elders shall be ordained into the diaconate, and shall be responsible for all matters pertaining to Christ's mission for the Church, to include, but not be limited to: worship, faith development, pastoral care, mission, outreach, evangelism, and prophetic witness. Deacon Elders shall, in conjunction with Deacon Trustees, approve the of all staff serving in mission related positions, including Worship Musicians and Christian Educators. Deacon Elders shall approve all mission partnerships with outside organizations. Two Deacon Elders and the Minister shall receive requests for and approve disbursements of funds from the Deacons Fund, in accordance with the policies set down by the Board of Deacons. Deacon Elders shall divide their responsibilities among themselves, and shall form such teams and *ad hoc* committees as needed to fulfill their duties. The Clerk shall serve as an *ex officio* member of the deacon Elders.

Deacon Trustees: Three to five Deacon Trustees shall be elected from the Covenant membership of the Church. The Deacon Trustees shall be ordained into the diaconate, and shall be responsible for all matters pertaining to corporate management of the Church and its resources, to include, but not be limited, stewardship, physical property, personnel management and, in conjunction with the treasurer, the management of funds. Deacon Trustees, in conjunction with Deacon Elders, shall approve the hire of all staff serving in mission-related positions, including Worship Musicians and Christian Educators. Deacon Trustees shall approve the hire of all personnel in non-mission functions, to include but not be limited to those responsible for care and maintenance of physical properties. Deacon Trustees shall divide these responsibilities among themselves and shall form such teams and *ad hoc* committees as needed to fulfill their duties. The treasurer shall serve as an *ex officio* member of the Deacon Trustees.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Nominating: The Nominating Committee shall prepare and present to the Congregation a slate of candidates nominating one person for each Church office to be filled. Candidates for the Nominating Committee itself shall be recommended by the Board of deacons. The entire slate of candidates should represent the diversity of the Congregation with respect to race, age, gender, sexual orientation, and duration of Church membership. The Nominating Committee shall keep the Congregation informed as to which positions are vacant, and the responsibilities thereof. If a vacancy in any Church office or Board exists in the period between Congregational Meetings, the Nominating Committee shall recommend candidates to the Board of deacons for appointment. At all times, the Nominating Committee and the Board of Deacons shall make every effort to consider the spiritual gifts of particular individuals in filling positions.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMPOSITION OF BOARDS

Section I: Length of Election

A. Officers

- 1) The Minister shall be called for an indefinite period of time at a Congregational Meeting called for this purpose.
- 2) Moderator, Secretary Clerk and Treasurer shall be elected for one year at the Annual Meeting and may be reelected.
- 3) Deacon Elders and Deacon Trustees shall be elected to two-year terms, and may be reelected.

B. Members of the Nominating Committee may serve for one year and may be reappointed.

Members of the Pastoral Relations Committee may serve for two years and may be reelected until there is a change in ministerial staff.

Section II: Eligibility for Election

Only Covenant Members in good standing of this Church may hold elective positions.

End of Docket

December 17, 2023