

# NEIGHBORS IN CHRIST PARISH

January 2023

Volume 26 Issue 1



## “Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors”

The People of the United  
Methodist Church

### **Bishop Hill Community Unit- ed Methodist Church**

405 E. Main St.  
Bishop Hill, IL 61419

### **Galva First United Methodist Church**

NW 2nd St and NW 2nd Ave  
Galva, IL 61434

**Parish Office Hours** (weather  
permitting) & **Phone Number:**  
**Monday, Wednesday, and  
Friday:** 9-Noon - Chuck &  
Sherry in office.

**Parish Office Address:** 214  
NW 2nd Ave. Galva, IL  
61434

**Office Phone:** (309) 932-2460

**Pastor Office Hours** (weather  
permitting) & **Phone Number:**

**Tuesday** at GF UMC - 9-11am  
**Thursday** at BH UMC/BH Vil-  
lage - 2-4pm.

**Pastor's Cell:** (503) 806 - 1118

**Parish Office E-mail:**

galvafirst@gmail.com

**Pastor Rebecca Gearhart**

**Email:**

preachinghope@gmail.com

**Website:**

www.neighborsinchrist.com

### **Sunday Worship Schedule**

**Galva First**

9am Worship

**Bishop Hill Community**

10:15am Worship

*And are we yet alive, and see each other's face?  
Glory and thanks to Jesus give for his almighty grace.*

Where has the year gone? I have now been here at this parish for a year and a half, and am still meeting new people and learning new things. I remember when I was small, time moved so slowly; five minutes felt like an eternity. Now, the weeks fly past and I get surprised when I look at the calendar and see where we are. I am amazed at how much we can fit in a year.

We have done Christmas and Lucia Nights, Hunger Dinner and Worship in the Park, Camp Auction and Jordbruksdagarna, Freedom Fest and more bake sales than I can count. We have supported a wide range of ministries, both local such as Loaves and Fish in Peoria and Foster Hope in Atkinson, and internationally such as Operation Christmas Child and Heifer International. I have been so impressed with the works of piety and mercy that I have seen in our parish. Together we worship and pray, study and strive towards perfection in love.

What will we do next? How will we lean into the new year? What will we do to grow in Christian love and to transform the world around us? How will we make disciples of Jesus Christ and how will we share the Good News? It is tempting to look at what we have done, what we have done so well, and repeat it all again in a cycle through the seasons. Yet that is not what faith calls us to do. We are called to prayerfully evaluate the past year and to encounter the new year as it comes to us, with what ever new joys and fears and hopes it brings. We do not know where our road will lead us, but we know who walks with us.

Peace be with you,  
~ Pastor Rebecca

*Let us take up the cross till we the crown obtain,  
And gladly reckon all things loss so we may Jesus gain.*



## Bishop Hill Kyrka Nyheter

We collect the Tin Cup Offerings the last Sunday of each month. Tin Cup collection was \$160.00 and went to the Honor Flight.  
**Galva Food Pantry:** Jan. - Apr. & July - Oct.  
**Honor Flight:** May & June  
**Hillcrest Home:** Nov. & Dec.

**Pairs & Spares**  
NO meetings until Spring

**BH Community Club**  
NO Noon meetings until Spring



NO Trustee mtg.



NO Admin mtg.



1/11 Patricia Maertens

1/23 Pat Hurd



### **Movie Night & Soup Supper at GF UMC**

Keep your eyes peeled for announcements in the bulletins for date of next movie night & soup supper. Family Fun!



3-Keith Collister  
3-Ethan Craig  
5-Rod White  
5-Darlene Wexell  
7-Sharon Murray  
8-Ryan Russell  
8-Barbara Van Riper

13-Kimberly Larson  
16-Pastor Rebecca Gearhart  
18-Mitchel Kitterman  
19-LuAnn Gustafson  
28-Connie Kuster  
29-Landon Nordstrom  
29-Devin Santilli



**United Women in Faith**

**NO 9:00am** Esther Circle until March 2023  
**NO 1:30pm:** Martha Circle until Spring  
**NO 2:00pm** UWIF in Epworth Hall until Spring

*Please keep saving pop tops for Ronald McDonald House and pennies for missions.*

**THANK YOU!**

To my church family, thank you so much for the Christmas card and holiday throw. The throw is soft and colorful, and perfect for a winter day. Happy 2023.

Marianne Willer

## Come Let Us Worship the Lord

As we look back at the last year and forward into a new year, you are invited to provide feedback on our services, both online and in person at our beautiful churches. What have you enjoyed and would like to see done more or more often? What do you think we could improve or make better? Is there something we used to do that you would like to see us do again? Is there something you have seen done in other churches that you would like to see us try here? Do you have a favorite hymn you would like us to sing more often? You are invited to attend parish worship committee meetings to join in the conversation or to write your ideas and send to the pastor or parish office.

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## Christmas & New Year Break

**December 25 -January 3rd** the office will be closed for a holiday break. **We will re-open January 4, 2023.** Hoping you had a very *Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year!*

Emails and answering machine will continue to be checked daily several times, please leave message in event of an emergency and we will get back to you.

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## Welcoming Committees

As we reach out more into the community, the hope is that we will be drawing in more people to join us in worship. What happens next? How do we greet people in a meaningful way and welcome them into our community of faith? How to we reach out and follow up? To help us connect with visitors and returning members, we are looking for friendly folks who would like to work together as a welcoming committee to extend radical hospitality to friends and strangers. Please let Pastor Rebecca know if you are interested in being part of this ministry or have ideas for things we can do together.

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**Ruby Jones** 2774 IL17 S Galva, Il 61434 309- 932-3872

**Russell Josephson c/o Serenity** 1250 W Carl Sandburg Dr, Rm 321, Galesburg, IL 61401

**Rosalie Lewin** 825 E. Division St., Galva, IL 61434 309-932-3645

**Rosalie Rittenhouse (Rona Williams mom)** 907 NW 6th St. Galva, IL 61434 932-2966

**Joyce R. Steward** 620 NW 8th St, Galva, IL Living with her daughter Joann Haga

**Courtyard Estates** 1000 Courtyard Dr. Galva, IL 61434 - 309-932-2600:

**Irene Johnson RM 402; Virginia Young RM 106; Richard Winter RM 202;**

**Henrietta Todd RM 314; Darlene Wexell RM 102; Carl Adkison RM 404;**

**Pat Griggs Rm 302.**

**Betty's Garden**, 141 Acorn St., Kewanee, IL 61443 - 309-853-1315:

**Darlene Adkison RM 201**

**Kewanee Courtyard Estates 141 Junior Ave., Kewanee, IL 61443**

**Arlene Landis RM 304**

**Kewanee Care 141 Junior Ave., Kewanee, IL 61443**

**Ken Landis**

If you are interested in helping with this outreach program of visiting our home bound, contact Sue Schulz at 309-927-3327. We will be organizing a chart for 2022, so please contact Sue Schulz to volunteer soon.



## **Greeter for 2023 -- Bishop Hill**

Jan 1 Linda Martin

Jan 8 Karen Hawkins

Jan 15 Nancy Nordstrom

Jan 22 Marty Ray

Jan 29 Bill & Marilyn Nelson

Feb 5 Lloyd & Donna Anderson

Feb 12 Dorothy Ericson

Feb 19 Eldon & Deni Menken

Feb 26 Linda Martin

Mar 5 Karen Hawkins

Mar 12 Nancy Nordstrom

Mar 19 Marty Ray

Mar 26 Bill & Marilyn Nelson

Apr 2 Lloyd & Donna Anderson

Apr 9 Dorothy Ericson

Apr 16 Eldon & Deni Menken

Apr 23 Marty Ray

Apr 30 Karen Hawkins

May 7 Linda Martin

May 14 Nancy Nordstrom

May 21 Bill & Marilyn Nelson

May 28 Dorothy Ericson

July 2 Karen Hawkins

July 9 Bill & Marilyn Nelson

July 16 Dorothy Ericson

July 23 Lloyd & Donna Anderson

July 30 Pat Hurd

Aug 6 Eldon & Deni Menken

Aug 13 Linda Martin

Aug 20 Nancy Nordstrom

Aug 27 Karen Hawkins

Sept 3 Bill & Marilyn Nelson

Sept 10 Dorothy Ericson

Sept 17 Eldon & Deni Menken

Sept 24 Lloyd & Donna Anderson

Oct 1 Linda Martin

Oct 8 Nancy Nordstrom

Oct 15 Karen Hawkins

Oct 22 Bill & Marilyn Nelson

Oct 29 Dorothy Ericson

Nov 5 Lloyd & Donna Anderson

Nov 12 Eldon & Deni Menken

Nov 19 Linda Martin

Nov 26 Nancy Nordstrom

Jun 4 Lloyd & Donna Anderson  
Jun 11 Eldon & Deni Menken  
Jun 18 Linda Martin  
Jun 25 Nancy Nordstrom

Dec 3 Karen Hawkins  
Dec 10 Bill & Marilyn Nelson  
Dec 17 Dorothy Ericson  
Dec 24 Lloyd & Donna Anderson  
Dec 31 Marty Ray

If you are **unable** to serve, please trade with someone, then let church office know.

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## **Galva First UMC**

### **2023 Committee Chairpersons**

Church Council Chairperson:	Mark Nordstrom
Education Chairperson:	Sharon Murray
Finance Committee Chairperson:	Jacque Jaquet
Mission & Evangelism Chairpersons:	Lisa Nordstrom Kathy Johnston
Board of Trustee's Chairperson:	Chet Travis
Nominations & Leadership Dev. Vice Chairperson:	Janett Scott
Pastor Parish Chairperson:	Craig Hawkins

### **Additional leaders in our church:**

Lay Leader:	Lisa Nordstrom
Prayer Coordinator:	Lynn Travis
UWIF President:	Diana Craig
Outreach Ministries:	Kathy Johnston

## Mission Updates.....Update on Connie Wieck

You may remember that with the retirement of Jacques Umembudi, our Mission and Evangelism Committee chose Connie Wieck, a college English teacher with the Amity Foundation in China, to be our new missionary.

February 2020 Connie returned to her hometown of Marshall, IL to spend the Chinese New Year with her mother. Little did she know that covid-19 and the Chinese government would prevent her from returning even now. Following is part of her recent newsletter.

“Ping Ahn (Peace) from Central Illinois! Yes, the wait continues to return to China and my English language teaching position at Luzhou Vocational and Technical College. Teachers still “stuck” overseas are hoping the Chinese government will allow the invitation letters from our Chinese work institutions to be approved in November or December. Of course, this depends on both China’s and the world’s virus situation. In the meantime I am fulfilling my Global Ministries duties as Mission Advocate for the North Central Jurisdiction while, at the same time, actively keeping my connections to Luzhou.

“Despite being in the US, I’m in daily connection with my students, colleagues, and my church, the Amity Foundation staff, and my Chinese friends. All this takes place through China’s WeChat App on my phone. I have been able to help with contests, give lesson advice, record dialogues and videos for classroom use, and even participate in my church choir’s prayers and Bible reading assignments.

“ In July I received a text message from my Chinese church choir members. To appear more uniform when wearing robes, the ladies were ordering online the same black shoes. The cost would be 29.9 yuan (roughly \$5 US). I wasn’t asked if I wanted a pair. I was asked my size so a pair would be waiting for me upon arrival in Luzhou.

“For moments when I feel a China return slipping away, I think of that decisive, resolute purchase made just for me by my Chinese singing sisters. During my long absence, I’ve received so much support and encouragement from the choir members, but this one is the most precious: a lesson in faith, embodied in a pair of shoes.”

To learn more about Connie and her work, follow her blog ‘connieinchina.org.’ And please keep Connie in your prayers as she waits to return to China.

## Congratulations!

Congratulations to Galva First UMC on receiving the Five Star Mission Challenge award for 2021. We were presented with a certificate at charge conference last fall.

To earn this award, we completed all five of the following requirements:

1. Paid 100% of our apportionments.
2. Donated to the salary support of a GBGM missionary - Connie Wieck.
3. Donated to at least three Special Sunday Offerings.
4. Donated to one or more General of UMCOR Advance Special project.
5. Donated to one or more IGRC Advance Specials.

For a more detailed description of the various giving opportunities within the Five Star Challenge, go to [www.igrc.org/fivestar](http://www.igrc.org/fivestar).



We will be taking a brief winter break, and will resume at a later date.

Have a joyful and safe winter.

Kathy Johnston will be announcing the date and time to resume, Prayer Shawl Ministry.

2023



2023

Reg. Office Hrs. Mon., Wed., and Fri., 9-Noon Tues., &amp; Thurs. by Appt. Phone: 932-2460

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 1-6pm Blood Drive	4 9-Noon Office Re-opens	5 6:30pm M & E mtg.	6	7
8 Communion Sunday both churches 9:00am GF UMC Service 10:15am BH UMC Service	9 9:00am Bible Study Courtyard 6:30pm GF Boy Scouts 7pm GF Now Council	10 5:30-7pm Girl Scouts	11	12 NO 9:00am Esther Circle until March NO 1:30pm Martha Circle until spring	13 NO 10:00am Prayer Shawl meetings until an- nounced	14
15 Human Relations Sunday 9:00am GF UMC Service 10:15am BH UMC Service NO 6pm Pairs & Spares until Spring	16 9:00am Bible Study Courtyard Noon: Newsletter Deadline Noon 6:30pm GF Boy Scouts	17	18	19 6pm Worship Committee mtg. 7pm Pastor/Parish mtg.	20	21
22 9:00am GF UMC Service 10:15am BH UMC Service	23 9:00am Bible Study Courtyard 6:30pm GF Boy Scouts	24 5:30-7pm Girl Scouts 7:00pm GF Trustees meeting	25 NO Noon BH Community Club meet- ings until spring Noon Newsletter to be sent	26 NO 2pm UWIF mtg. until March 2023	27	28
29 9:00am GF UMC Service 10:15am BH UMC Service	30 9:00am Bible Study Courtyard 6:30pm GF Boy Scouts Holy Land Trip -Jan. 30—Feb. 8th Pastor Rebecca will be gone until 2/8.	31		<p><b>Office is Closed</b></p> <p><i>December 26-January 3, 2023. Office re-opens on January 4th.</i></p> <p>You may contact Pastor Rebecca at 503-806-1118 or Chuck &amp; Sherry Linscott at 309-932-8308 or by cell 309-507-2284 or leave message on answering machine - 309-932-2460 or email galvafirst@gmail.com</p>		

# Neighbors in Christ Parish

Combined Parish  
214 NW 2nd Ave., Galva, Illinois 61434

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**Parish Office Hours** (weather permitting) & Phone Number: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday: 9-Noon - Chuck & Sherry in office. **Parish Office Address:** 214 NW 2nd Ave. Galva, IL 61434  
**Office Phone:** (309) 932-2460. *The office phone & email is checked daily several times per day.*  
*Should you need to leave a message for office staff after hours, please call the office phone at 932-246 or call Chuck & Sherry at 932-8308 or cell 507-2284.*

**Pastor Office Hours** (weather permitting) & Phone Number: Tuesday at GF UMC - 9-11am and Thursday at BH UMC/BH Village - 2-4pm.  
**Pastor's Cell:** (503) 806 - 1118

## Galva First Places of Service for January 2023

	Jan. 1	Jan. 8	Jan. 15	Jan. 22	Jan. 29
LITURGIST	Deb Root	Warren Schulz	Sharon Murray	Lisa Nordstrom	
GREETERS			John Lewin	Lisa Nordstrom	
USHERS:					
ACOLYTES					

## Bishop Hill Places of Service for January 2023

	Jan. 1	Jan. 8	Jan. 15	Jan. 22	Jan. 29
GREETERS	Linda Martin	Karen Hawkins	Nancy Nordstrom	Marty Ray	Bill & Marilyn Nelson