

# NEIGHBORS IN CHRIST PARISH

February 2024

Volume 27 Issue 02



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

The People of the United  
Methodist Church

### **Bishop Hill Community United 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:** 9-1pm  
- Chuck & Sherry in office.  
Contact # 309-507-2284 or 309-  
932-8308. **Closed Friday.**

**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-Noon

**Thursday** at BH UMC/BH  
Village - 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

Take time to be holy, speak oft with thy Lord; abide with him always, and feed on his word.

Make friends of God's children, help those who are weak; forgetting in nothing his blessing to seek.

There is something wonderful, and terrifying, about snow. I grew up in a place where everyone would panic at a dusting of snow, staring up at the sky in fear and awe. The gentle flakes falling from the sky create a kind of hush, and as they settle across the ground, they hide a multitude of mess and sin under a landscape that reflects the brightness of the sun. Yet they come with ice and bitter wind, trapping us in doors or making travel difficult. I am so grateful that our churches offer shelter and warmth and that we have the technology to be able to worship together even when we are apart.

January has been cold, and it can be lonely in the winter when our normal routines are interrupted. But I have been impressed with the way we have shared as a community, and the ways we have been checking on each other's safety in the snow. We don't know what February will bring us, other than each other. We come together for services like Ash Wednesday, as Lent begins. We read and discuss together as we start our Lenten Bible study. And we seek community, as we gather for family fun time in February, with food and games.

As we push on into winter, going with the sure and certain hope that Spring will come, as we start Lent knowing that on the other side of it is Easter, I want to invite you to actively hold each other in your hearts. Reach out to each other. Check on each other. Pray for each other. Help each other. Remember that we are not alone, that we live in God's world, and that we are called to be the hands and feet of Christ. We have the capacity for great love, grace, and compassion, and those are things that everyone needs.

Peace be with you, Pastor Rebecca

Take time to be holy, the world rushes on; spend much time in secret with Jesus alone.

By looking to Jesus, like him thou shalt be; thy friends in thy conduct his likeness shall see.



## **Bishop Hill Kyrka Neater**

We collect the Tin Cup Offerings the last Sunday of each month. Tin Cup collection was \$40.00 in January and it went to **Galva Food Pantry**: Jan. - Apr. & July - Oct.

**Honor Flight:** May & June

**Hillcrest Home:** Nov. & Dec.

## **BH Community Club**

**NO Noon Luncheon until Spring**



**February 11th following church the Trustees will meet**



**February 11th following church the Admin committee will meet.**



02/14 Peggy England  
02/28 Marty Ray



2-Russell Collister  
4-Carl Adkison  
4-Randy Collister  
5-Melanie Edmonds  
13-Chris Craig

19-Brandon Craig  
24-Roger Bates  
27-Kathy Fargher  
27-Chantelle Craig



## **United Women in Faith**

**NO** Esther Circle until March 2024  
**NO** Martha Circle until April 2024  
**NO** UWIF until March 2024

***Please keep saving pop tops for Ronald M0cDonald House and pennies for missions.***



## **Ash Wednesday and Lenten Evening Services**

Lent begins on February 14<sup>th</sup>, which is Ash Wednesday. The Galva Ministerial Association will be having an Ash Wednesday service at Messiah Lutheran, at 5:30 on the 14<sup>th</sup>, and then will be having short Lenten evening services and meals on the Thursdays of Lent, starting on the 22nd, at 6 pm. The rotation of churches is still being sorted out, so stay tuned for locations!

<b>Galva First UMC Finance Report</b>			<b>Bishop Hill UMC Finance Report</b>	
	December	Year to Date		December
<b><u>Income</u></b>	<b><u>23,451.63</u></b>	<b><u>162,723.98</u></b>	<b><u>Income</u></b>	<b><u>2,611</u></b>
Envelopes	12,275	117,660	Tithes and offerings	2,025
Plate Offerings	263	1844	Tin Cup Hillcrest	55
Building 4 God	1080	5,321	UM Student Day	50
Special offerings	806	3,983	Golden Cross	481
BH Reimbursement	1240.57	17,457		
Other	7787.06	16,459.00		
<b><u>Expenses</u></b>	<b><u>18,118.09</u></b>	<b><u>190,506.21</u></b>	<b><u>Expenses</u></b>	<b><u>2,659.86</u></b>
Worship	243	4,821.96	Samaritan's Purse	350
Administration	888.83	6,997.53	Parish Gifts	400
Pastoral Ministry	7,088.34	78,751.08	Cleaning	80
Church Property	2,807.58	70,792.01	Apportionments	230.00
Apportionments	950	11,400.00	Reimbursement	1240.57
Special Offerings	4367.67	7,064.35	Ameren	359.29
Unbudgeted	1772.67	10,679.28		

**Peggy England** SW 5th Ave., Galva, IL 61434 309-932-2886

**Jean Ericson** NW 2nd Ave., Galva, IL 61434 309-932-2263

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

**Marilyn Kelly** 20 NW 2nd. St., Galva, IL 61434 309-932-2468

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

**Don & Mary Mitten** 610 NW 8th St., Galva, IL 61434 309-932-2394

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

**Henrietta Todd** *RM 313*; **Darlene Wexell** *RM 102*; **Carl Adkison** *RM 404*;

**Pat Griggs** *Rm 302*; **Rosalie Rittenhouse** *RM 315*; **Virginia Young** *RM 106*; **Roger Norberg** *Rm*

**Allura Lake Storey \***

1250 W Carl Sandburg Dr, ,Galesburg, IL 61401 (309) 344-5400: **Russell Josephson**

**Allura Knox County\***

280 E Losey, Galesburg, IL 61401 (309) 343-2166:

**Betty's Garden** 1141 Acorn St., Kewanee, IL 61443 (309) 853-1315: **Darlene Adkison** *RM 201*

**Kewanee Care** 144 Junior Ave., Kewanee, IL 61443 (309) 853-4429: **Ken Landis** *RM 403*

**Knox County Nursing Home \*** 800 N. Market, Knovxille, IL 61448; **Naomi Peterson**, *RM 110*

**Mercer Manor** 309 NW 9th Ave., Aledo, IL 61231 (309) 435-0100: **Don England**

**Toulon Healthcare** 700 E. Main St., Toulon, IL 61483 (309) 286-2631: **Gary Coon**

**Home Bound Hillcrest** 14688 Il Hwy 82 RM—W7 B2, Geneseo, IL 61254 (309) 944-2147: **Nore Larson & Lois Johnson**

If you are interested in helping with this outreach program of visiting our home bound, contact Sue Schulz at 309-927-3327.

\* means the facility wants address mailed via C/O the facility with resident name listed with NO room #.



## **Lenten Bible Study**

Lent is a season for examining our hearts and growing in spiritual practices as we prepare for Easter. This year, we will be reading “The Walk; Five Essential Practices of the Christian Life,” by Adam Hamilton. This study addresses the question of How do we walk with Christ – daily follow him, grow in him, and faithfully serve him? In this six week study, we will explore five essential spiritual practices that are rooted in Jesus’ own walk with God, their New Testament foundation, and what it looks like to pursue these practices in our daily lives. We will have an afternoon class from 2:30 pm- 4 pm and an evening class from 7 pm – 8:30 pm, every Tuesday of Lent, starting on February 20<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in participating in this study, or know friends or family that would be, please sign up and let us know, so we can order enough books. All are welcome to join us!

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THANK YOU



Here’s to wishing everyone a great 2024 and a big thank you for your generosity this past Christmas. Believe it or not, I’ve been playing and recording your services for just over 7 years, but change is inevitable. Thank you, Jennalynn, for taking over and hope this is the beginning of another great church relationship!

**Sincerely, Madelyn Green**

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Thank you everyone for the generous and caring Christmas gift you gave to Chuck and me. It is with great joy that we continue to be given the opportunity to give back to our church and to Jesus, our Savior, through our volunteering in the church office. Thank you again for thinking of us.

**Chuck & Sherry Linscott**

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Thank you all for such a generous Christmas gift that we each received. This church and it’s congregation mean a great deal to us both. Thank you once again.

**Jesse and & Ryann Hutchinson**

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Thank you very much for the generous Christmas gift. I appreciate it. I’ve enjoyed being the Treasurer at First UMC for the last year and a half. God bless you all!

**Carol Collister**

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Much appreciated was the generous Christmas gift that the congregation gave me, it was appreciated greatly.

**Bob Lewin**





### Update on Connie Wieck

After an unexpected four-year hiatus due to covid and the unexpected termination of her placement in China, Connie Wieck is now off and running in her new position as Coordinator of the Sunbeam Language and Vocational Center in Vientian, Laos. She joins two other General Board of Global Ministry workers who have been on location for 6 years.

In addition to her duties of creating and teaching English lessons for a wide variety of learners, overseeing a staff of seven, and working with local teachers and pastors, Connie is exploring her new home city, settling into her temporary housing, and learning to count in Lao.

Another challenge is transportation. There are few cars and no public transportation. Most people get around by motorbikes or motorcycles. After practicing her driving skills in a remote area, she donned her helmet and ventured onto the city streets. She was pleased to find that skills from her youth came back quite quickly.

Her next step is to purchase her own motorbike. Actually, she won't be purchasing it as foreigners aren't allowed to buy vehicles. One of the local staff will buy it for her at a cost of \$2000-\$2500, a necessary expense for her independence and access to remote areas.

Connie's current prayer requests are for her learning a new language, adjusting to a new culture and food, and staying focused on the people's needs and not her ideas of what they need.

Laos is a small country 7.2 million people in Southeast Asia bordered by Vietnam, Cambodia, and Thailand. Once known as the Land of a Million Elephants, it gained independence from France in 1953 and is now controlled by Communists. The main religion is Buddhism (60%) with Tai folk religion second (39%). Only 1.4% of the population is Christian, and most of those are Catholic.

The average annual income is \$2150 in US dollars. The main crops are rice, sweet potatoes, and sugar cane. Main exports are wood, clothing, and coffee.

A reminder - we pay \$1200 towards her salary support. Please pray for Connie and her work. You can learn more about her at [connieinchina.org](http://connieinchina.org).





## February Family Fun!

On Sunday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, we invite people to bring their families to an afternoon of fun and games in **Epworth Hall, from 3pm-5 pm**, with food provided! Bring your favorite game or toys to share, and come have fun together. **All Are Welcome!**

Prayer  
Shawl  
Ministry

YOU GAVE ME COMFORT



## Prayer Shawl Ministry

We will meet **February 9th at 10am** for a joyous time of ministry once again. Kathy Johnston will be coming up with the yearly schedule shortly.



Carol Norén

**You are invited to join us in welcoming Rev. Dr. Carol Norén to the pulpit on February 4 at the Bishop Hill Community UMC.**

Dr Norén is the author of the book: *On to Perfection; Nels O. Westergreen and the Swedish Methodist Church*. She is a scholar, retired pastor, and Professor Emerita of Homiletics at North Park Theological Seminary. She also serves on the United Methodist Commission on Archives and History in northern IL. Dr Norén's book is about the life of Rev. Westergreen who was the first minister appointed to the newly formed Bishop Hill Swedish Methodist church in 1864, and who also preached at many area churches including Galva First.

Faculty Emeriti - North Park University

On to Perfection: Nels O. Westergreen and the Swedish Methodist Church: Carol M. Noren: 9781666710830 - Christianbook.com



## The Bishop Hill Community UMC is now on Facebook!

Please follow us to get updates on special services and events.

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61554193894252&mibextid=gik2fB>



2024



2024

**Reg. Office Hrs. Mon. & Wed. 9-1pm; Tues. 9-Noon, & Thurs. Bishop Hill UMC/Village 2-4pm; next to the last Fri. of each month 9-1pm to complete and send out the upcoming newsletter if needed. Office Phone: 932-2460**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<b>1</b> <b>6:30pm</b> Mission & Evangelism	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> 5th Sunday after the Epiphany <b>9:00am</b> GF UMC Service <b>10:15am</b> BH UMC Service	<b>5</b> <b>9:00am</b> Bible Study Courtyard	<b>6</b> <b>5:30-6:45pm</b> Girl Scouts	<b>7</b> <b>7pm</b> GF Boy Scouts	<b>8</b> <b>NO 9:30am</b> Esther Circle  <b>NO 2:00pm</b> Martha Circle at Courtyard	<b>9</b> <b>10:00am</b> Prayer Shawl mtg	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> Holy Communion, Transfiguration Sunday and Scouting Ministries Sunday <b>9:00am</b> GF UMC Service <b>10:15am</b> BH UMC Service <i>Trustee's and Adm meeting following church service</i>	<b>12</b> <b>9:00am</b> Bible Study Courtyard <b>7pm</b> Now Council	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> <b>5:30pm Ash Wednesday</b> service at Messiah Lutheran, Galva <b>7pm</b> GF Boy Scouts	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> <b>9:00am</b> GF UMC Service <b>10:15am</b> BH UMC Service <b>3-5pm</b> Family Game Night with food provided	<b>19</b> <b>9:00am</b> Bible Study Courtyard <b>Noon</b> Newsletter Deadline	<b>20</b> <b>5:30-6:45pm</b> Girl Scouts	<b>21</b> <b>7pm</b> GF Boy Scouts	<b>22</b> <b>NO 2pm</b> UWIF mtg. <b>6pm Lenten Service loc. TBA</b>	<b>23</b> <b>NO 10:00am</b> Prayer Shawl mtg	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> <b>9:00am</b> GF UMC Service <b>10:15am</b> BH UMC Service	<b>26</b> <b>9:00am</b> Bible Study Courtyard <b>1pm</b> Newsletters to be mailed	<b>27</b> <b>7pm</b> GF Trustees mtg.	<b>28</b> <b>NO Noon</b> BH Community Club mtg. <b>7pm</b> GF Boy Scouts	<b>29</b> <b>6pm Lenten Service loc. TBA</b>		

# 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: 9-1pm** - Chuck & Sherry in office. **Closed on Friday.** **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. Email & office answering machine to be checked twice daily.

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

## Galva First Places of Service for February 2024

	Feb. 4	Feb. 11	Feb.18	Feb. 25	
LITURGIST	Jerry Scott	Deb Root			
GREETERS	Nancy Patterson	John Lewin	Connie Anderson	Warren & Sue Schulz	
USHERS:					

## Bishop Hill Places of Service for February 2024

	Feb. 4	Feb. 11	Feb.18	Feb. 25	
GREETERS	Bill & Marilyn Nelson	Dorothy Ericson	Eldon & Deni Menken	Marty Ray	