



New Glimpses

January, 2026

Volume 18, Issue 1

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A Word From Pastor Jamieson

Winter is coming. A phrase made common many years ago at the height of the “Game of Thrones” popularity. Our late fall and early winter thus far run the spectrum of bitter cold, snowstorms, heavy rains, and even tornado warnings. We are all already jealous of snowbirds in warmer climates. For many, winter is comfortable with the warm breezes and tropical drinks where the best we could do right now is snuggle up to a warm fireplace with slippers and hot chocolate. We consider a small walk outside without blowing away a blessing. Winter is coming, indeed, so let us fend off the cold with prayer, worship, and fellowship.

Of course, we all experience winter differently, which doesn’t change that fact that winter is coming. It is a season of life that we all endure. Cold wind will pierce through all the layers we put on and our soul will shiver. Snow and ice storms loom large over every new day can feel all consuming. We all know how cold and dreary this season of life can be. C.S. Lewis writes of a land "where it is always winter." We all find ourselves in such a land at times in our life. Whenever you might feel the warmth of life’s joy leaching out, and the path you were walking on lost in one of life’s blizzards, know it’s always possible to find new a new path even upon frozen lakes and fallen snow. Pastor Carol and I are always available to talk about new beginnings, most especially in the depths of winter of the soul.

Winter is coming, indeed, but you don’t need to endure it alone. Everything winter can change in a single moment, just like life. A small decision can seem like a snowflake; meaningless on its own; however, combined with others, it can add up to something that changes your life. Everything from a simple introduction to a person you don't know, to responding to an online posting, to just saying hello to a passing stranger can forge a forever connection. Many of you have your own stories about simple connections that later build life-long relationships: please share them with us. We welcome your relationship stories and encourage you to ask how to make them stronger.

It is now 2026. How did that ever happen?! I believe January is a great month full of motivation to get something done. I feel compelled to volunteer more, especially on Martin Luther King Day, a day of service and volunteering in the community. Several years ago, my wife and I volunteered at Muir Woods National Monument in California to help rebuild trails. It was hard work moving dirt and repairing old trails. I imagined the work that went into originally building the trails must have been back breaking just based on my 3 long hours. It was an incredible experience, even though it was only a few hours in the morning. It truly felt like we were accomplishing something together. I felt a new spirit moving me forward on that day, directly opposing my skepticism, which always has a way of breaking through my happiest moments. Yes, we were all doing great work to improve the trail, and yes there were perhaps a million other people throughout the country participating in service projects,

Annual

Congregational Meeting

NOTICE: In accordance with our church Bylaws, be advised that our Annual Congregational Meeting for the Budget will be held Sunday January 25th, 2026, after the morning worship. The Finance and Facility Board have been working hard to plan for the coming year, and welcome your input! All are invited to attend; members of UCB will vote on the budget. We will also appoint Conference delegates.

Start 2026 in prayer.

Start a prayer group and commit to prayer for 31 days.





CLICK THE QR CODE FOR
TITHES & OFFERINGS



*"The generous will prosper;
those who refresh others will
themselves be refreshed"*
Proverbs 11:25

**Hymnals
January, 2026**

We will begin a new fundraiser to help supply the church with new hymnal books. Calling all bakers, crafters, and painters. We are looking to raise \$1,000. If you would like to see a copy of the new hymnal book, please see Pastor Jamieson.

Continue Pg.1

Yes, we were all doing great work to improve the trail, and yes there were perhaps a million other people throughout the country participating in service projects, I could not help but wonder what good any of this do in the long term. I felt the cold winds of winter breaking into my spirit. I was convinced the rains will come again and wash away the trail, there will be hungry people tomorrow, and the gardens that are being planted will go fallow in time. What is the point. My new year optimism was already failing, and the year was just a few weeks old.

I could relate with the Internet jokes going around at the end of this year showing a happy and jubilant picture of Leonardo DiCaprio from Titanic describing the beginning of 2016 juxtaposed with an old, beaten, and exhausted Leonardo DiCaprio with a long beard from The Revenant describing the end of 2016. Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King said, " Faith is taking the first step even when you can't see the whole staircase." We must live this out in 2026. Let time be meaningless as to not focus on the years passing by but focus on taking the next step up the staircase. That is what God is calling us to do; to have faith in live out that faith. When fear captures our hopes then faith has little space to exist. Let us take the next step up the staircase together with God.

Blessings,
E.J.

From the Desk of Pastor Carol

Friends, my prayer for the New Year: May each of us find a reason to give thanks, and reasons to share. May our moments of joy vastly outnumber the moments of sadness. May the Lord our God bless and keep each of us, and our beloved United Church of Beloit, all through the year and well beyond. Through Jesus' Name and Spirit, Amen.

"Make A Joyful Noise" 2025



PRAYER CORNER



Heavenly Father,

Thank You for making all things new! As another new year begins, help me live each day for You. May I continually have a new song in my heart to sing to You, no matter what comes my way. I trust in You because I know that Your mercies are new every morning, and nothing ahead of me will take You by surprise.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

—Joan Walker Hahn



The Mission to Seafarers supports men and women working at sea when they need us most. To compensate for the lack of facilities available at all Seafarers Centers, spread across 50 countries, aim to provide Seafarers with:

- Access to WiFi Internet and SIM cards
- A comfortable place to rest and relax
- The chance to get food and toiletries
- Transport to shops and local amenities

And it's not just practical support the Mission offers. We know that seafarers need emotional and frequently spiritual support too. That's why the Mission to Seafarers has a large network of ordained Port Chaplains who come on board ships, giving seafarers a listening ear and offering prayer, if needed. They can also connect seafarers to other organizations or speak to them on their behalf.

New Year - New Me

Michelle Bullock

Do not conform to the patterns of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is his good, pleasing and perfect will.

~Romans 12:2

Every week before a football game the team will review plays of the coming opponent. They do this to strategize a plan for winning. Players have to watch their diet, they have to get the proper rest, exercise and most important they have to make sure their mind is on the game.

It's the dawn of a new year with fresh anticipation and confidence! One might say how is that possible what is going to make 2026 any better than 2025? When I consider that fact that I even made it to 2026, that alone is a reason to rejoice. As I age I find myself in reflection of time. Perhaps because I see more of it behind me than I do in front of me. But wisdom is teaching me not only to look forward to the future but to take the time to appreciate the past.

What I realize now is my yesterday makes shape for my tomorrow. The good, the not so good, and the down-right ugliness of my 2025 is in my rear-view mirror. I can't what happened last year but I can change my mindset. If yesterday I felt like a failure, unless I do something to change that scenario tomorrow will be a repeat. **WHEN** I error, knowingly or unknowingly, I'm convicted almost immediately. That's growth! I now know, unless I do something to correct that error, like a cancer, it will take root and become habitual. It will begin to metastasize and effect other areas of my life. That will only take me further from God and because I truly believe we are living in the **LAST** days, that is not an option for me. I need more of God!

So, my thought process for 2026 (not a goal, not a resolution) is to continue to allow God to influence me daily. I'm choosing to seek Him and allow Him to guide me in all areas of my life. My intent is to keep Him on my mind. By praying and fasting more than I did in 2025. Being intentional with my time, gifts, and talents. By walking in the calling I know He has on my life. We all have a calling and the clock is ticking.

What will you do to have an even better year than the last?

New Fallen Snow by E.J. Prevoznak

Drab gray sky gives way to newly falling snow.
 Winter's soft light takes the reigns from the bitter winds of woe.
 The old, covered, forgotten, refreshed for heaven's sake.
 Hills and fields beckoning joy filled memories under the moonlight
 wake.
 Surrendering to gravity soaring faster than a winter wren.
 Bearing witness to new love kindled from across the glen.
 Cold winds only cure is the chair next to the fire.
 Hot beverage, and gaze resting on whom most admire.
 Polar air melts away with their embrace.
 Memories well-made we can never replace.



Myrna Wright	Jan. 2
Gary Kovanda	Jan. 4
John Pickart	Jan. 7
Lisa Campton	Jan 14
Dean Zimmerman	Jan 14
Kaden Harris	Jan 23
Frank Rubitsky	Jan 23
Joy Boardman	Jan 25
Gavin Campton	Jan 26
Renee Risseeuw	Jan 30
Marilyn Cook	Jan 28
Valerie Fjalstad	Jan 28
Star Risseeuw	Jan 30
Barry Bovee'	Jan 31

Bald Eagles Inspire Faith



But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. -Isaiah 40:31

I saw a pair of Bald Eagles flying over the river the other morning. They seemed to be enjoying the gusty winds, circling and going higher with ease. We're so fortunate to have eagles nesting here, and others come for the winter, since the river below the dam doesn't freeze over. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources was one of the agencies that helped greatly in the return of eagles from near extinction. There are now active eagle nests in every county in WI and in many areas of Illinois.

The Prophet Isaiah compared our faith life with the ability of an eagle to soar. At any stage of life, our faith can deepen with regular worship, bible reading, and prayer. Join us for Sunday worship, enjoy a Bible reading plan, try out our book or bible study sessions to help your faith soar.



Scott & Jean Reichard Jan 20

January-2026 Sermon Schedule

JAN 4

John 1:1-18

A Lighthouse for All Time

JAN 11

Pastor Carol Preaching

JAN 18

John 1:29-42

Lambs and Doves

JAN 25

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Gospel vs. Wisdom

January Bible Study **THE MESSIANIC TORAH**

Jesus looks out at a crowd of the powerless and dispossessed. But instead of dismissing or pitying them, he begins to unveil a vision of God's Kingdom that starts with these people right here. Sit with Jesus on a mountainside as he delivers some of his most well-known teachings and meditate on the Sermon on the Mount.

Contact Pastor E.J. for more details

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Ministers: Each member of Christ's Church

Lead Pastor	E.J.Prevoznak
Licensed Lay/Interim Minister	Pastor Carol Taylor
Church Treasurer	Gary Kovanda
Financial Secretary	Valerie Fjalstad
Church Secretary	Michelle Bullock
Custodian	Savvas Mourtzis

Member Church of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches and Wisconsin Congregational Association, and the Presbytery of Milwaukee (PCUSA).

If you have a need contact;

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January Bible Study

**Contact Pastor E.J.
for more information**