

# Greetings from Godfrey Congregational Church

Contact/Newsletter Issue Apr 2024  
www.godfreycongregational.org



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## Bible Verse of the Month



1 “I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. 2 He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. 3 You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. 4 Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

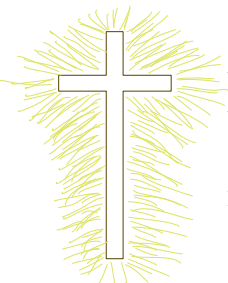
5 “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. 6 If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. 7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

9 “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. 10 If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. 11 I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. 12 My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command. 15 I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. 16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. 17 This is my command: Love each other.

26 “When the Advocate [the Holy Spirit] comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—he will testify about me. 27 And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning.

John 15:1-17, 26-27

## Message from the Moderator



Jesus is the light of the world. When He is your foundation, you live for Him. You want to please Jesus for He is glorious, awesome, and praiseworthy. You realize your life is temporary and fleeting. Jesus has assured you of your salvation. You no longer fear your death. You know your destiny is heaven. You strive to keep righteous and holy to stay in God's good grace. This is the life of a believer who has a personal relationship with Jesus.



Is Jesus speaking to you? You start by wanting this with your entire being and then pray for Him to come. He will answer you by knocking at your door, then you open the door and after Jesus enters, you will feast together. (Revelation 3:20)

- Robert Ridenour

# GODFREY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

6104 Godfrey Road  
P.O. Box 214  
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Office phone: 618 466-3640

[godfreyucc@gmail.com](mailto:godfreyucc@gmail.com)  
[www.godfreycongregational.org](http://www.godfreycongregational.org)

Links on website: donate →   
watch service → 

## ***Pastor Information***

**Pastor:** Supply Pastors/Speakers  
**Call:** Robert Ridenour (618-377-9096) or  
Rose Mary Oglesby (618-216-2151)

## **Pastoral Needs**

**Call:** Rose Mary Oglesby (618-216-2151) or  
Robert Ridenour (618-377-9096).

## **To Add People to the Prayer List**

**Email:** [godfreyucc@gmail.com](mailto:godfreyucc@gmail.com)  
**Call/Text:** 314-944-5336

## **MINISTRIES**

### **CRISIS FOOD CENTER**

Monetary donations to Crisis Food Center may be made on any Sunday by placing money in the offering plate or by making a notation to *Crisis Food Center* in the memo on your check.

### **SHAWL MINISTRY**

The shawl ministry provides a warm blanket to those who are experiencing a time of distress in their life. This could be due to a health concern, a loss, or a crisis.

The blankets are blessed during a service at the church where all in the congregation are asked to touch the blanket to add their prayers for comfort and healing. If you know of anyone who should have a blanket, please contact Emma Brandt at 618 372-3730.

### **HANDS OF HOPE**

Hands of Hope continues to help those in our community with food and clothing. Your donations are greatly appreciated!  
Contact Susan Wright for more information.

*Free to Believe That All  
May Be One*

## ***Upcoming Special Events***

**Fri, April 19 @ 4:30 PM**

Council Meeting (Council Members Only)

## **Calendar Corner (All Welcome)**

### **Every Sunday (In Person)**

10:30 AM Worship Service - led by supply pastors and lay speakers

After Children's Message in Worship Service - Children's Church and Nursery provided by Susan Wright

11:30 AM All invited to refreshments and fellowship in the Fellowship Hall downstairs.

### **Every Sunday (FaceBook live)**

10:30 AM Worship Service - led by lay speakers and supply pastors.

### **Every Wednesday**

9:00 AM - 11:30 AM Quilter's Group Fellowship over quilting. All welcome from beginners to advanced.

### **Labyrinth Open Outside 24/7**

All are welcome to enjoy the labyrinth for their own spiritual journey with God.

### **Articles for Contact Newsletter**

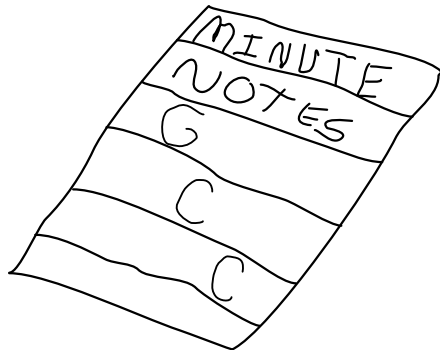
Submissions must be **received by the 18<sup>th</sup>** through email to [godfreyucc@gmail.com](mailto:godfreyucc@gmail.com) (preferred method), put in the secretary's door office mailbox, or placed on the secretary's desk to guarantee to be in the upcoming "Contact" Newsletter. Thanks.

### **Secretary Hours**

Every Monday and Thursday (12:30-3:00 PM) unless ill, back trouble, inclement weather, or a holiday.

GODFREY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING

Friday, March 15, 2024



**Members in Attendance:** Bob Ridenour, Ferne Ridenour, Rose Mary Oglesby, Susan Wright, Carrie Paradine, & Jamie Orban

The meeting was opened with a prayer by Susan Wright. Scripture was read by Bob Ridenour: Proverbs 3:5&6. The meeting was called to order at 4:38 p.m. Minutes of February 18, 2024 were reviewed by the council. A motion to accept the minutes as written was made by

Rose Mary Oglesby, seconded by Susan Wright. Motion carried.

**COMMITTEES:**

**FINANCE:** Chair Ferne Ridenour reported the following amounts as of February, 2024:

**Reuter Trust:** \$260,119.17 (up \$219.12) as of 2/29/24. There was no income received from the trust on March 1, 2024. [The principal of the Reuter Trust Fund cannot be used until November 14, 2038.]

**Line of Credit:** \$4,600.00 (as of February, 2024)

**Building Repair Fund:** \$100.00 [This fund can only be spent on large building, grounds, and/or equipment repair or replacement costs, as approved by the Church Council.]

Total expenses for the month of February were \$3,843.38 and our total income was \$3,471.59. Expenses exceeded income by a total of \$371.79. Our monthly payment has gone up from \$787.62 to \$931.56; that is an extra \$143.62 per month— or \$1,584.00 per year.

**FACILITIES & SUPPLIES:** Rose Mary Oglesby reported that the fire safety inspector came on March 12, 2024, and inspected the fire extinguishers in our building. We passed the inspection. Rose has scheduled the inspection for our lift for March 25, 2024. Rose reported that we need to have an outside work day. The shrubs need pruned, the low-hanging tree branches need trimmed, limbs need picked up, and the flowerbeds need work. We will need volunteers to help and a day scheduled to work on this.

**PERSONNEL & NOMINATING:** No report at this time.

**CHURCH GROWTH & NURTURE:** Susan Wright reported the following: We mailed out two birthday cards to our church family and friends. The committee met after worship on March 3rd and decided to purchase palms for Palm Sunday. The Growth and Nurture board will continue to prepare communion for any Sunday required.

**CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT:** Susan Wright reported that the average adult Christian Education attendance was 0 and the average attendance for our children's classes was 1. Sunday School Bible Study was not held and will not be held unless someone shows an interest in attending. Jolene and Susan discussed how Jesus healed people with an activity sheet that is on the back door of the nursery. They talked about St. Patrick and what he did for Jesus, plus decorated shamrocks. They are still working on a Lenten chain for Lent and what that means.

**PASTOR'S REPORT:** No report at this time.

**DEACONESS:** No report at this time.

**ACA REPORT:** Susan Wright reported that the American Christian Academy is doing well. They are working on their sign to put up to show what makes them unique.

The ACA reported the following accomplishments: The third quarter is over and Nathan did very well in school; we are now planning our next holiday party for St. Patrick's Day; our Easter vacation will be March 29 until April 8 when we return to school for the Easter party; in the last 90 days, ACA Greetings from Godfrey Congregational Church Contact/Newsletter Issue Apr 2024 page 3

had 400 reaches, 94 followers, 189 engaged, and 86 published content; our field trip has been planned for the last school week in May to the St. Louis Zoo.

The ACA reported the following goals: File for a 501(C)3 with the IRS; design the sign and purchase posts; and have more students.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None at this time.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Building and Trust Fund Update:

1. Rose Mary Oglesby spoke with John Pawloski about what was decided from our special meeting on March 6, 2024. He is at home now, but was to find out Wednesday, March 13, 2024, if he was to have stents or a bypass heart surgery at Missouri Baptist Hospital. He asked if Rose Mary could meet with Joann Barton from Busey Bank, and Rose agreed she would. An appointment was made with Joann Barton on March 13, 2024.
2. Rose Mary Oglesby had a meeting with Joann Barton on March 13, and the following was discussed:
  - a. The church is asking for a \$25,000.00 per year payment from the trust. Joann said that she would refigure how that would work out—(like \$25,000 for 10 years, as an example).
  - b. She would get with the attorney general and see if this sounds okay with the state. She said she would hopefully know something in the next two to three weeks.
  - c. If the church is allowed the flat \$25,000.00 a year payout, we would not be getting any of the interest paid to us—it would be added back to the principal.
  - d. Joann said that if this proposal gets approved, they would probably have to sell our 3 month CD to pay our first yearly payment and the rest would be put back into our money market.
  - e. Rose Mary gave Joann a copy of our financial records for the years of 2023, 2022, and 2021. She also received copies of our membership, attendance, and the minutes from our March 6th, 2024 special meeting.

Rose Mary Oglesby received a letter from Wick’s Organ Company. They are raising their rates this year from \$678.00 to tune the organ, to a new cost of \$718.00 per visit. This tuning is needed once a year for routine maintenance.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Rose Mary Oglesby, seconded by Susan Wright. The meeting was adjourned at 5:12 p.m. followed by a closing prayer by Susan Wright.

Respectfully Submitted, Jamie Orban

<b>Upcoming Guests</b>		<b>Music Schedule</b>
Apr 7 <b>Rev. Randy Cheatham</b>	<b>Birthday Blessings</b>	 Thanks to Rayford and Martha Raby for playing their wonderful music. Rayford playing 7. Martha playing 14, 21, and 28.
Apr 14 <b>Rev. Irene Gulovsen</b>	4/27 Bob Ridenour 4/29 Judy Archer	<b>Galatians 2:20</b>
Apr 21 <b>*Rev. Gary Kniepkamp</b>	<b>Amount      FB Attended   Views</b>	“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.” Paul's words still accurately describe any person on fire for Jesus today.
Apr 28 <b>Rev. Susan Wright</b>	<b>Feb 18    14      23</b>	
<b>*Communion Service</b>	<b>Feb 25    17      12</b>	
	<b>Mar 03    13      13</b>	
	<b>Mar 10    14      29</b>	
	<b>Mar 17    16      51</b>	

## Directory

Get your copy of the directory this month.



# 2024 Easter Lilies

### Joke

A Christian lady lived next door to an atheist. Every day, when the lady prayed, the atheist guy would harass her, saying "Lady, why do you pray all the time? Don't you know there is no God?" But she kept on praying.

One day, she ran out of groceries. She prayed to the Lord and thanked Him for what He was gonna do. Atheist heard her praying and thought to himself, "Humph! I'll fix her."

He bought a whole bunch of groceries and dropped them off on her front porch. Then hid in the bushes to see what she would do. When she opened the door and saw the groceries, she began to praise the Lord with all her heart, jumping, singing and shouting everywhere! The atheist then jumped out of the bushes and told her, "You ol' crazy lady, God didn't buy you those groceries, I bought those groceries!" She said, "I knew the Lord would provide me with some groceries, but I didn't know he was gonna make the devil pay for them!"

Anonymous x1

- In honor and appreciation of Rayford and Martha Raby
- Our church is so blessed each Sunday by their beautiful music.

Debbie Kelly x2

- In memory of her daughter, Lauren Michelle Kelly
- In memory of her mother, Joyce Orban

Rose Mary Oglesby x1

- In memory of my husband, Jerry Oglesby
- In memory of my parents, Elsie & Paul Devening

Fern and Robert Ridenour x2

- In memory of our parents, Elsie & Paul Devening
- In memory of our parents, Gladys & Wayne Ridenour

Norma Wright x1

- In memory of my parents, Ada and Ardell Babcock
- In memory of my brother, William

Susan Wright x1

- In honor of our Risen Savior and Lord, Christ Jesus



### Prayers



- Abby. Has ongoing health problems. Connie Fair's daughter.
  - Ann Tolle. Having health issues. Would love cards and calls.
  - Barb. Had open heart surgery. Not doing well. Gerry Brown's friend.
  - Bob Gulovsen. Having heart problems. Irene's Gulovsen husband.
  - Cheyene. Having heart problems. Granddaughter of Cathy Schilling.
  - Don & Emma Brandt. Don has ongoing health issues. Cards are welcome.
  - Henrietta Kamp. Pray for continued healing and fast recovery time.
  - Irene Gulovsen. Had knee surgery.
  - Jared Brooks. Had surgery. Son of Debbie Kelly, a guest pastor.
  - John Pawloski. Having heart problems.
  - Randy Kelly. Fell and broke his right hip and fumer. Relative of Debbie Kelly, guest pastor.
  - Shirley Beyers. Has cancer. Relative of Kathy Schilling.
  - Valerie Bates. Cancer returned. Wife of Derrick Bates, daughter-in-law to Jerry & Joyce Bates.
- Please submit prayer requests via email to [godfreyucc@gmail.com](mailto:godfreyucc@gmail.com) or call/text 314-944-5336.



### Sympathies: Praying for the Families



- Barb Pryor passed away in March. Friend of Gerry Brown.

# Godfrey Congregational Church

## April 2024 Calendar

<https://www.godfreycongregational.org/calendar-2>

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Easter Monday	2	3 9A-11:30A Quilters Group	4	5	6
7 10:30A-11:30A Music by Rayford Raby 10:30A-11:30A Worship, Chaplin Randy Cheatham	8	9	10 9A-11:30A Quilters Group	11	12	13
14 10:30A-11:30A Music by Martha Raby 10:30A-11:30A Worship, Irene Gulovsen	15	16	17 9A-11:30A Quilters Group	18 Contact Newsletter Articles Due	19 4:30P-5:30P Council Meeting (Council members only)	20
21 10:30A-11:30A Communion 10:30A-11:30A Music by Martha Raby 10:30A-11:30A Worship, Rev. Gary Kniepkamp	22	23	24 9A-11:30A Quilters Group	25	26	27
28 10:30A-11:30A Music by Martha Raby 10:30A-11:30A Worship, Rev. Susan Wright	29	30				