

# Greetings from Godfrey Congregational Church

Contact/Newsletter Issue Feb 2024  
www.godfreycongregational.org



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## Bible Verse of the Month

27 So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

1 [Jesus said,] “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[a] 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.”

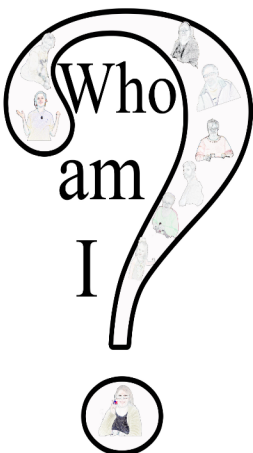
Genesis 1:27, John 15:1-17

## Message from the Moderator

Who am I? I am faithfully created for a relationship with Jesus and my Heavenly Father. I am the Lord’s creative content. I am a vessel for the Lord, clay in His hands. I am nothing but in a temporary space and time. I am a blessing in the Lord’s eyes.

These are the words of everybody who loves Jesus. These are the words of everybody who with all their heart, mind and soul desires a relationship with Jesus. Love God with all your heart, mind, and soul. (Matthew 22:37-38) This is the first commandment Jesus gave and this is the starting point for a relationship with God.



- Robert Ridenour



# GODFREY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

6104 Godfrey Road  
P.O. Box 214  
Godfrey, IL 62035  
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**

**Sun, Feb 4 @ after service**

2024 1<sup>st</sup> regular membership meeting.

Snacks afterwards. Please bring something to share.

**Fri, Feb 16 @ 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.



## Prayers



- Abby. Has ongoing health problems. Connie Fair's daughter.
  - Ann Tolle. Having health issues. Would love cards and calls.
  - 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.
  - Jerry Bates. Released from hospital and at home recovering from COVID.
  - Jerry Kelly. Had surgery. Son of Debbie Kelly, a guest pastor.
  - Joyce Bates. Recovering from being ill.
  - Norman Hunt. Friend of Rose Mary Oglesby.
  - 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 for the Families



- Junior Medling passed away on Jan 13. Cousin to Rose Mary Oglesby.

## Happenings in Our Church


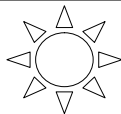

We had a heat wave for a couple of days after the "icebox" we were in before! Hopefully everyone stayed safe and did not have any heater or water problems.

It does not seem like we just celebrated Christmas and on February 14th is ash Wednesday and the beginning of lent!!! Have you thought what you are giving up for lent? As this time of our Christian worship begins, let us remember who Jesus is and what he sacrificed for everyone. Let us not give up and keep strong to our faith. God is merciful, and forgives us for our sins.

Please try to come or send in your proxy for our congregational meeting to be held on February 4th, following our worship service. After the meeting at fellowship hour, we will be sharing snacks. Please bring your favorite snack in to share with everyone.

Continue to share your love, peace, joy, and hope with your friend, neighbors, etc. Invite your friends or neighbors to join us for worship on Sundays.

Peace Be With You, Rose Mary

Upcoming Guests	Feb. Music Schedule	Amount Attended	FB Views	
Feb 04 * Rev. Gary Kniekamp	 Thanks to Martha and Rayford Raby for playing their wonderful music. Rayford playing 25. Martha playing 4 and 11. Myra playing 18.	Dec 24	16	36
Feb 11 Rev. Susan Wright and Carrie Paradine		Dec 31	15	65
Feb 18 ^ Rev. Susan Wright and Carrie Paradine		Jan 07	15	55
Feb 25 Rev. Irene Gulovsen		Jan 14	canceled	
*Communion Service. ^Ash Wednesday Service.			<b>Directory Update</b>	
	It's time to update your phone numbers and addresses for the upcoming directory. Please, let the secretary know of any changes.			
	<b>Birthday Blessings</b>			
2/5/2018 Age: 6 Drew (Parent: Nicole Orban)				
2/13 Jim Ogden				



### Birthday Blessings

2/5/2018 Age: 6 Drew (Parent: Nicole Orban)

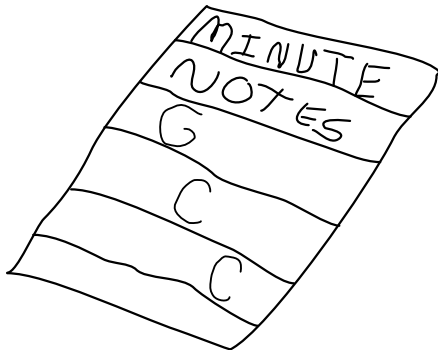
2/13 Jim Ogden

### Directory Update

It's time to update your phone numbers and addresses for the upcoming directory. Please, let the secretary know of any changes.

GODFREY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING

Friday, January 19, 2024



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

The meeting was opened with a prayer by Susan Wright. Scripture was read by Bob Ridenour: Psalm 27:1. The meeting was called to order at 4:34 p.m. Minutes of December 15, 2023 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 December, 2023:

**Reuter Trust:** \$258,625.11 (up \$4,715.16) as of 12/31/23. The income received on January 1, 2024 was \$688.52 [The principal of the Reuter Trust Fund cannot be used until November 14, 2038.]

**Line of Credit:** \$4,650.00 (as of December, 2023)

**Building Repair Fund:** \$90.00 [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 December were \$3,175.05 and our total income was \$2,466.07. Expenses exceeded income by a total of \$709.00. Our higher insurance bills were one of the main causes. 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:** Chair Rose Mary Oglesby extended a thank you to Alan Crockett for cleaning snow off of the sidewalks.

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

**CHURCH GROWTH & NURTURE:** Susan Wright reported the following: We mailed out six cards to our church family and friends, two for birthdays and four Christmas cards. Growth and Nurture would like to extend a big thank you to everyone that brought cookies and fruit on December 17 with a special thank you to Betty Norman for delivering them. We are taking down the greens on January 20th at 9 a.m. and hope to see everyone there.

**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. When Jolene was not dancing in and learning from Susan's Biblical plays, she was in Children's Church. Susan and Jolene have decorated the nursery and read about the birth of Jesus, along with completing many activity sheets to decorate the door. Check it out!

**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 and had a wonderful Christmas and New Year's vacation. Nathan will have a report card coming out soon, and he is passing all of his classes.

The ACA reported the following accomplishments: We had an enjoyable Christmas party with a movie, many snacks, games, and gifts. Plus, we made stars to put on our bulletin board; we are now planning our next holiday party for Valentine's Day; ACA always has people viewing our videos but  
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due to internet problems with Spectrum, there are not any amounts on how many; and our nonprofit status with the state of Illinois has been approved.

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:**

The Annual Meeting date was set for February 4th, 2024 and will take place after worship service. We will have a snack and appetizer fellowship hour after the meeting—all are encouraged to bring a snack or refreshment to share.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Rose Mary Oglesby reported that she has been in contact with Jo Ann Barton and John Pawloski. John and the bank have completed a draft of a waiver of service and consent to entry of consent judgment. Jo Ann Barton has given a copy of this form to the bank lawyers to see if this is okay with them. If this is okayed, John will present this to the court judge. Hopefully we will hear more in February.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Rose Mary Oglesby, seconded by Susan Wright. The meeting was adjourned at 5:18 p.m. followed by a closing prayer by Susan Wright.

Respectfully Submitted, Jamie Orban

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## **Joke**

A young couple purchased an old, run-down, abandoned farm with plans to turn it into a thriving organic enterprise. The fields were grown over with weeds, the farmhouse was falling apart, and the fences were broken down.

The village vicar stopped by to bless the family's work, saying, "May you and God work together to make this the farm of your dreams!"

A few months later, the preacher stops by again to call on the young farmers. He couldn't believe his eyes. The farmhouse was completely rebuilt and in excellent condition, there were plenty of cattle and other livestock happily munching on feed in well-fenced pens, and the fields were filled with crops planted in neat rows. "Amazing!" the preacher says. "Look what God and you have accomplished together!"

"Yes, Vicar," said the farmer's wife, "but remember what the farm was like when God was working it alone!"

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## **Grow Closer to Jesus**

9 The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. 11 He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. 12 Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— 13 children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. -John 1:9-13  
The true light is only found in Jesus Christ. His love is so overwhelming that nothing in this world compares to it. The minute we first believe and want Jesus as our personal Savior with all our heart, mind, and body, we receive a new identity and family found in Christ. We become born again, changed from the inside out, a new self. This is part of our Heavenly Father's plan for every Jesus lover and believer of Jesus Christ as their personal Savior to receive holiness and have our sins washed away in His eyes. The most important thing we can do for ourselves is to love God with all our heart, mind, and body for this is where true treasure is found. (Matthew 6:21-22, 22:37)

# **CALL FOR FIRST REGULAR MEMBERSHIP MEETING SUNDAY, February 4, 2024**

The **First Regular Membership Meeting** of the Godfrey Congregational Church of Godfrey, Illinois, is called by the Moderator at the request of the Council for Sunday, February 4, 2024, following worship for the following purposes:

1. to review and act upon the minutes of the November 12, 2023, Second Regular Membership Meeting.
2. to review and act upon the 2023 annual financial report;
3. to review the 2023 Annual Reports submitted by the officers, board members, and chairpersons of standing and special committees, and organizations within the church;
4. to act upon any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Robert Ridenour, Moderator

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## **AGENDA**

### **Call to Order**

**Moderator**

**Prayer of invocation**

**Adoption of Agenda**

**Disposition of minutes**

**Presentation and approval of the 2023 Financial Report**

**Finance Chair**

**Presentation and approval of the 2023 Annual Reports**

**Adjournment**

**Closing Benediction**

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## **2<sup>nd</sup> Regular Membership Meeting Minutes on Sunday, Nov 12, 2023**

Moderator Robert Ridenour called the Second Regular Membership Meeting of Godfrey Congregational Church to order at 11:33 a.m. Susan Wright gave the prayer of invocation. A quorum was established with twelve members present and no proxy designations.

Adoption of Agenda: Rose Mary Oglesby made a motion to adopt the agenda as written, Sue Orban seconded. Motion carried.

Disposition of Minutes: Minutes of the First Annual Meeting Minutes were printed in the most recent newsletter. Ferne Ridenour made a motion to accept the minutes of the last membership meeting on February 26, 2023. Susan Wright seconded. The motion carried.

Presentation and Approval of the 2024 Proposed Budget: Finance Chair, Ferne Ridenour, spoke to the congregation regarding the report, detailing our actual budget. She expressed the necessity for more members to join the congregation in order to continue meeting our financial needs to keep operating and keep the doors open. Ferne reported that our utility bills and expenses are projected to only go up in the coming year, increasing our need for more income to continue operating. Rose Mary Oglesby made a motion to accept the financial report and budget, seconded by Susan Wright. Motion carried.

Presentation and Approval of the 2024 Election Positions: Susan Wright stated that she was proud  
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of our congregation and how all members had stepped up to fill positions and pull together to continue to keep our church running. Susan relayed that Carrie Paradine will be taking over as Chair Person for the Personnel and Nominating board and has great ideas to bring to the church. Betty Norman made a motion to accept the presented slate of officers, Ferne Ridenour seconded. Motion carried.

There being no other business, Rose Mary Oglesby made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Betty Norman. The motion carried and the Second Annual Regular Membership Meeting came to a close at 11:44 a.m. Susan Wright gave the closing benediction.

Respectfully submitted, Jamie Orban

**The First Regular Membership meeting for Godfrey Congregational Church is set for Sunday, February 4, 2024. If you are unable to attend you should return your proxy to the church via **mail or email no later than January 31, 2024.****

**GODFREY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH PROXY**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ have designated \_\_\_\_\_  
(Print your Name) (Print Name of Proxy)

to act as my proxy on February 4, 2024 at the  
(Date of Meeting)

**1<sup>st</sup> Regular Membership Meeting of Godfrey Congregational Church.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\*\*\*\*\*

**The First Regular Membership meeting for Godfrey Congregational Church is set for Sunday, February 4, 2024. If you are unable to attend you should return your proxy to the church via **mail or email no later than January 31, 2024.****

**GODFREY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH PROXY**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ have designated \_\_\_\_\_  
(Print your Name) (Print Name of Proxy)

to act as my proxy on \_\_\_\_\_ **February 4, 2024** \_\_\_\_\_ at the  
(Date of Meeting)

**1<sup>st</sup> Regular Membership Meeting of Godfrey Congregational Church**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

# Godfrey Congregational Church

## Feb 2024 Calendar

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 10:30A-11:30A Communion 10:30A-11:30A Music by Martha Raby 10:30A-11:30A Traditional Worship, Rev. Gary Kniepkamp 11:30A-12:30P 1st regular membership meeting with snacks following meeting	5	6	7 9A-11:30A Quilters Group	8	9	10
11 10:30A-11:30A Music by Martha Raby 10:30A-11:30A Worship, Rev. Susan Wright and Carrie Paradine	12	13 Shrove Tuesday/Mardi Gras	14 Ash Wednesday 9A-11:30A Quilters Group	15	16 4:30P-5:30P Council Meeting (council members only)	17
18 Contact Newsletter Articles Due 10:30A-11:30A Ash Wednesday Service 10:30A-11:30A Music by Myra Hughey 10:30A-11:30A Worship, Rev. Susan Wright and Carrie Paradine	19 Presidents' Day	20	21 9A-11:30A Quilters Group	22	23	24
25 10:30A-11:30A Music by Rayford Raby 10:30A-11:30A Traditional Worship, Rev. Irene Gulovsen	26	27	28 9A-11:30A Quilters Group	29		