

Greetings from Godfrey Congregational Church

Contact/Newsletter Issue Jan 2024
www.godfreycongregational.org



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Bible Verse of the Month



4 So, my dear brothers and sisters, this is the point: You died to the power of the law when you died with Christ. And now you are united with the one who was raised from the dead. As a result, we can produce a harvest of good deeds for God. 5 When we were controlled by our old nature, sinful desires were at work within us, and the law aroused these evil desires that produced a harvest of sinful deeds, resulting in death. 6 But now we have been released from the law, for we died to it and are no longer captive to its power. Now we can serve

God, not in the old way of obeying the letter of the law, but in the new way of living in the Spirit.

7...it was the law that showed me my sin. I would never have known that coveting is wrong if the law had not said, "You must not covet." 8 But sin used this command to arouse all kinds of covetous desires within me! If there were no law, sin would not have that power.

14 So the trouble is not with the law, for it is spiritual and good. The trouble is with me, for I am all too human, a slave to sin. 15 I don't really understand myself, for I want to do what is right, but I don't do it. Instead, I do what I hate. 17 So I am not the one doing wrong; it is sin living in me that does it. 18 And I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. I want to do what is right, but I can't. 19 I want to do what is good, but I don't. I don't want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway. 20 But if I do what I don't want to do, I am not really the one doing wrong; it is sin living in me that does it.

21 I have discovered this principle of life—that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong. 22 I love God's law with all my heart. 23 But there is another power within me that is at war with my mind. This power makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me. 24 Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death? 25 Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord. So you see how it is: In my mind I really want to obey God's law, but because of my sinful nature I am a slave to sin.

Romans 7:4-8, 14-15, 17-25

Message from the Moderator



What a wonderful season of bountiful glory with the past merriment of Christmas and a New Year! To all who accept, we have received the most precious gift, baby Jesus was born into the world. A King was born and placed in a manger. Heavenly visitors came and praised Jesus to the shepherds who were nearby.



We must be like the shepherds seeking Jesus and praising Him in every step of our life. Put on a new you by focusing on Jesus. Out with the old sinful you replaced with the new righteous you. This can only happen after you accept Jesus Christ as your personal savior because you realize you are a sinner and are broken. Then you need to want and focus on Jesus in every step of your journey to become righteous in the eyes of our Heavenly Father.

- Robert Ridenour

GODFREY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

6104 Godfrey Road
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Godfrey, IL 62035
Office phone: 618 466-3640

godfreyucc@gmail.com
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
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, Jan 12 @ 4:30 PM

Council Meeting (Council Members Only)

Sat, Jan 20 @ 9:00 AM

Taking down the greens. Time to put the decorations away.

Sun, Feb 4 @ after service

2024 1st regular membership meeting.

Snacks afterwards. Please bring something to share.

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 18th** through email to 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 Kelly. Had surgery. Son of Debbie Kelly, a guest pastor.
 - 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 or call/text 314-944-5336.



Sympathies for the Families



- Julie Kiey's mother passed away last month. Julie Kiey was a former paster here.
- Rev. Robert Marten Schmidt passed away in Dec. He was a UCC pastor. Memorials may be made to Friedens UCC of Marissa or the DuBois Center.
- Rev. William "Bill" (Patti) Causer passed away on Dec 10. He was a UCC Pastor. Cards can be sent to Patti Causer, 11315 N Presley LN, Mt. Vernon, IL 62864.

Happenings in Our Church

We hope that everyone had a very "Merry Christmas!" Hopefully everyone was good this past year and did not get "coal" in their stocking!!

Thank you to everyone that brought fruit and cookies for "cookie Sunday" We hope our shut-ins enjoyed their gift basket of goodies--you are all missed at church and thought of with love.

As the wind blows past my window today, it brings back lots of memories of Christmas seasons past---family get togethers, going sleigh riding and all of the family going to church on Christmas Eve.

As we begin this new year of 2024, let all of us begin with hope in our hearts for everyone. Let us find peace and love in our faith, and share this with our neighbors, friends, etc. May this year be a new beginning for our church and our church family.

I saw in a magazine, pictures of a snowy wintry scene. It was beautiful-with the graceful trees, the earth and bushes covered in white, reminding me of a fine lace. My heart is sometimes covered with snow as well. Those are the seasons when God is silent. When I pray, there is no answer. But God's silence is beautiful in its own way. It is holy and majestic. In the winter season, I have learned to wait in holy silence as complex and, in its own way, as lovely as lace.



Let us pray together: O God, we have come to a wintry place, help me to rest in the beauty of your silence. Amen.

MAY ALL OF YOU HAVE A BLESSED NEW YEAR! Rose Mary



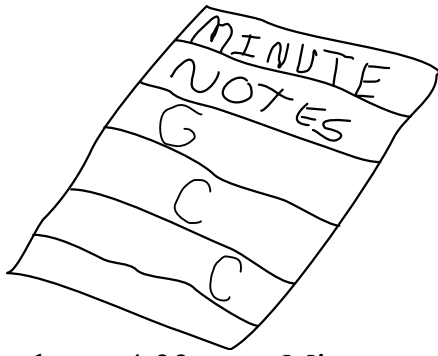
Taking Down the Greens

Come help put away the holiday decorations. Starts at 9:00 AM on Sat., Jan. 20.

Upcoming Guests	Amount	FB		Birthday Blessings
	Attended	Views		
Jan 4* Rev. Gary Kniekamp	Nov 19	13	22	1/31 Betty Norman
Jan 14 Rev. Gary Kniekamp	Nov 26	16	27	
Jan 21 Debbie Kelly	Dec 3	17	103	 Jan. Music Schedule Thanks to Martha and Rayford Raby for playing their wonderful music. Martha is playing on Dec 31, Jan 14, 28. Rayford is playing on 7, 21.
Jan 28 Rev. Irene Gulovsen	Dec 10	20	24	
*Communion Service.	Dec 17	19	16	

GODFREY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING

Friday, December 15, 2023



Members in Attendance: Bob Ridenour, Ferne Ridenour, Rose Mary Oglesby, Susan Wright, Betty Norman, Sue Orban & Jamie Orban

The meeting was opened with a prayer by Susan Wright. Scripture was read by Bob Ridenour: Luke 2:14. The meeting was called to order at 4:33 p.m. Minutes of November 17, 2023 were reviewed by the council. A motion to accept the minutes as written was made by Susan Wright, seconded by Rose Mary Oglesby. Motion carried.

COMMITTEES:

FINANCE: Chair Ferne Ridenour reported the following amounts as of November, 2023:

Reuter Trust: \$253,909.99 (up \$5,310.79) as of 11/30/23. There was no income received this month due to a \$231.97 handling fee. [The principal of the Reuter Trust Fund cannot be used until November 14, 2038.]

Line of Credit: \$4,700.00 (as of November, 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 November were \$3,463.52 and our total income was \$2,608.74. Expenses exceeded income by a total of \$854.78. 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 reported that the Salvation Army came on December 6th and picked up everything left over from the rummage sale.

PERSONNEL & NOMINATING: No report at this time.

CHURCH GROWTH & NURTURE: Susan Wright reported the following: We mailed out eight cards to our church family and friends, two for anniversaries, three for birthdays, and three Christmas cards. Growth and Nurture would like to send a big thank you to everyone that helped with the Hanging of the Greens on November 18. Cookie and Fruit Sunday will take place December 17th. At the Growth and Nurture meeting on November 26th, we decided who was bringing fruit and cookies.

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 is not dancing in and learning from Susan's Biblical plays, they are in Children's Church. They have been decorating the nursery and reading about the birth of Jesus. One Sunday Drew Rodewald attended Children's Church, too!

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 getting ready for Christmas with many holiday decorations. Nathan did a great job decorating the

classroom, school door, and office for Christmas.

The ACA reported the following accomplishments: We had an enjoyable Thanksgiving Day party with a movie, many snacks, and baking more cookies. Plus, we made turkeys for Thanksgiving to put on our bulletin board; we are now planning our next holiday party for Christmas, but there will be no Christmas program; ACA has reached 186 people in the last month and engaged 73; ACA has renewed our nonprofit status with the state of Illinois and no changes to our school board; and we now have a large sign for advertising with permission from the Church Council to place the sign in the north side front yard.

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:

Dates were set for the next year's (2024) council meetings.

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.

We will be packing away Christmas decorations on Saturday, January 20th at 9:00 a.m. Please, if you are able, come and help with this task.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ferne Ridenour, seconded by Rose Mary Oglesby. The meeting was adjourned at 5:22 p.m. followed by a closing prayer by Susan Wright.

Respectfully Submitted, Jamie Orban



2023 Christmas Poinsettias

Anonymous x1

- For the beautiful music from Rayford and Martha Raby

Randy Cheatham x2

- In memory of parents: Don and Linda Cheatham

Debbie Kelly x2

- In memory of parent: Joyce Orban.
- In memory of daughter: Lauren Kelly

Betty Norman x1

- In memory of parents, grandparents, and brothers

Rose Mary Oglesby x1

- In memory of husband: Jerry Oglesby
- In memory of parents: Elsie and Paul Devening

Fern and Robert Ridenour x2

- In memory of parents: Elsie and Paul Devening
- In memory of parents: Gladys & Wayne Ridenour

Susan Wright x1

- In honor of our Lord Jesus Christ

Church Christmas Gift

A gift was bestowed to the church



from Jack and Myra Hughey, a Godfrey Congregational Church

photo puzzle. Each piece is a reminder of the unique shapes that each person comes in but when the different pieces come together, they make a “whole” church. Each member contributing their special talent/s. Jolene accepted the gift for the church. Thank you Jack and Myra for your thoughtful gift.



Directory Update

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

**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

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

2nd 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)

1st 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)

1st Regular Membership Meeting of Godfrey Congregational Church

Signature

Date

Godfrey Congregational Church

Jan 2024 Calendar

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 9A-11:30A Quilters Group	4	5	6 Epiphany
7 10:30A-11:30A Communion 10:30A-11:30A Music by Rayford Raby 10:30A-11:30A Traditional worship, Rev. Gary Kniekamp	8	9	10 9A-11:30A Quilters Group	11	12	13
14 10:30A-11:30A Music by Martha Raby 10:30A-11:30A Traditional Worship, Rev. Gary Kniekamp	15	16	17 9A-11:30A Quilters Group	18 Contact Newsletter Articles Due	19 4:30P-5:30P Council Meeting (Council Members Only)	20 9A-10A Taking down the greens
21 10:30A-11:30A Music by Rayford Raby 10:30A-11:30A Traditional Worship, Debbie Kelly	22	23	24 9A-11:30A Quilters Group	25	26	27
28 10:30A-11:30A Music by Martha Raby 10:30A-11:30A Traditional Worship, Rev. Irene Gulovensen	29	30	31 Proxies due 9A-11:30A Quilters Group			