



**SUSSEX UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH  
February 2021**

## **Groundhog Day**

In a few days it will be February 2nd again and as many as ten thousand people will flock to Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania to discover whether or not Phil the Groundhog will see his shadow. According to legend, if he does, he'll retreat to his burrow and there'll be six more weeks of winter.

It's interesting to note that in Germany, a similar observance is held, but the animal in question is a Badger instead of a groundhog. The confusion may lie in the difference between original German (Deutsche) and so-called Pennsylvania Dutch (Deutsch). As you may know, the Madison, Wisconsin area considers itself the groundhog capital of the world. Sun Prairie plays host to its own weather-forecasting animal, Sun Prairie Jimmy. In 2015, as the mayor of Sun Prairie leaned in to hear Jimmy's prediction, Jimmy bit him on the ear. Weather forecasting can be a dangerous game.

Back in the 1800's, before it became a popular event in Punxsutawney, the locals would eat the groundhog after his prediction, whether they liked it or not. What was it that Jesus said about prophets not being honored in their hometowns? In Punxsutawney they were honored and then eaten. To properly prepare Groundhog to eat requires months of marinating. Groundhog eating eventually fell out of fashion. The 1993 movie with Bill Murray greatly increased the annual attendance at the event in Punxsutawney.

For a long time, the Pennsylvania groundhog didn't have an official name, but in 1961 the city of Punxsutawney attempted to gift a groundhog couple to the State of California, named in honor of the Queen of England and her husband, Elizabeth and Philip. The State of California mistakenly exterminated the groundhogs as rodents, but from then on the annual groundhog has been named Punxsutawney Phil. This might be a resurrection metaphor, but I kind of doubt it.

Similar observances happen in Ireland. Says folklorist Kevin Daneher, "In Irish folk tradition February 1st, is St. Brigid's Day, the first day of Spring, and thus of the farmer's year. ... To see a hedgehog was a good weather sign, for the hedgehog comes out of the hole in which he has spent the winter, looks about to judge the weather, and returns to his burrow if bad weather is going to continue. If he stays out, it means that he knows the mild weather is coming."

Up here in Wisconsin, no matter what the groundhog, the badger, or the hedgehog do, we probably won't see spring until late March or Mid-April. Sometimes we even see snow in May. But finding reasons to celebrate in the bleak midwinter helps to make the season seem to pass more quickly. I'm hoping that you'll find inventive ways to pass all those cold winter days to come before spring.

Pastor Jim

### **Scriptures & Sermon Titles**

<b>February 7</b>	Psalm 84	Hebrews 2:14-18	“What If God Were One of Us?”
<b>February 14</b>	2 Corinthians 4:3-6	Mark 9:2-9	“Midnight Special”
<b>February 21</b>	Romans 8:9-17	Mark 1:9-15	“The Spirit of Adoption”
<b>February 28</b>	Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16	Romans 4:13-25	“Retirement Age?”



# February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2  Groundhog Day	3	4 Noah's Ark in FH 10:00-11:00 am	5	6
7 Worship 9:00 am	8 SUMWomen 6:30 pm	9	10 Noah's Ark Board Meeting 6:00 pm 	11 Noah's Ark in FH 10:00-11:00 am	12	13
14 Worship 9:00 am	15	16 Finance Council 6:30 pm	17 Ash Wednesday Lent Study via Zoom 6:30 pm 	18 Noah's Ark in FH 10:00-11:00 am	19	20
21 Worship 9:00 am	22	23	24 Lent Study via Zoom 6:30 pm 	25 Noah's Ark in FH 10:00-11:00 am	26	27
28 Worship 9:00 am						

## VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

	February 7	February 14	February 21	February 28
<b>Liturgists</b>	Martha Nelson	Marilyn Kral		Debbie Jansen
<b>Boxes</b>	Undies Sunday	Undies Sunday	Undies Sunday	Undies Sunday

**Undies Sunday** During the month of February, we are collecting new socks and underwear for men, women and children to donate to our local Food Pantry. All sizes are needed. Please place your donations in the basket provided in the Sanctuary. If you choose to donate money for the purchase of these items, clearly mark it as "Undies Sunday" and place in the offering plate.



**Sussex United Methodist Church is Open for In-Church Worship  
Sundays at 9:00 am in the Sanctuary  
Face masks are required**

**Services are also being livestreamed on Facebook**

**Fellowship Hall is open for fellowship time after worship  
Face masks are required and social distancing is encouraged**

**Volunteers are being sought to sanitize the worship space weekly between services**

## **Souper Bowl Sunday 2021**

Since we are not able to gather this year for our annual Souper Bowl Sunday soup tasting event, we are collecting canned soup for the entire of month of February. All donations will help support our local food pantry.



## **Lent 2021: Denominationalism** **Wednesday Nights at 6:30 pm** **via Zoom Meetings**



**Wednesday, February 17**

**Democracy and Evangelicalism  
The Kingdom of Heaven on Earth**

**Wednesday, February 24**

**Mainline Churches and Ecumenicalism  
Episcopalians, Congregationalists, Presbyterians, Methodists, Baptists, Catholics**

**Wednesday, March 3**

**Free Churches  
Quakers, Shakers, Moravians, Mennonites**

**Wednesday, March 10**

**Civil Religion in America  
What Unites Us?**

**Wednesday, March 17**

**Non-Denominational Churches  
Seekers and Mini-Denominations**

**Wednesday, March 24**

**Wrap-Up**

**Thursday, April 1, 6:30 pm**

**Maunder Thursday**

**Sunday, April 4**

**Easter Sunday  
7 am and 9 pm Worship?**

## **Soles for Jesus**

[solesforjesus.org](http://solesforjesus.org)

You may have noticed a large cardboard box in the side entryway or upstairs near the elevator. Christine Maher has a connection to a person here in Sussex who collects new or like-new shoes and then every year takes them on a mission trip to Africa. In 2020 they did not travel but sent shoes. They are hopeful for a trip in 2021 but will send shoes in the meantime. If you would like to purchase, or have some like-new shoes around, please consider donating them to this worthy mission. They are looking for both adult and children's sizes. Please contact Christine or Debbie if you have questions or want more details on the mission.





**WISCONSIN UNITED METHODIST CAMPS**  
 are currently hiring summer staff at Pine Lake and Lake Lucerne  
 Positions include Camp Counselors, Support Staff, and Healthcare Coordinators  
 Please apply at <https://wiumcamps.org/about-us/employment/>

**Sussex Outreach Services**  
 262.246.9860 [www.sussexareasos.org](http://www.sussexareasos.org)



**The Sussex Horne-Mudlitz VFW Post #6377 is sponsoring a Drive thru - Drop off**  
 for the Sussex Food Pantry, or make a \$ donation  
 at the Horne-Mudlitz VFW Post 6377 (next to Rumors)  
**the last Sunday of every month from 9 am - 1 pm**  
 Enter off Waukesha Avenue and exit in back to Main Street  
 You do not have to leave your car; a volunteer will be there to unload your vehicle  
**We will continue this SOS drive as long as it is needed**

The Food Pantry will continue to operate as a drive thru at least until April 30, 2021. No clothing or household donations accepted. Since our clients are not coming in the building, they don't have access to donated items. Our first priority is the safe distribution of food to those who need it.

Bring your ID and provide your address if you are new. Food is distributed at the drive thru and you receive items that are prepacked, including frozen meat, dairy, bread, and non-perishable items. You do not need to exit your vehicle and please have trunk space available for food. You can come once a week for food. Due to the dramatic increase in pantry usage, we have returned to our policy of serving only those within the Hamilton School District. ID is required for every pantry visit.

Distribution Hours are: Mondays 5:30 - 7:00 pm  
 Wednesdays 1:00 - 2:30 pm  
 Saturdays 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Donations may be dropped off at the Food Pantry Monday through Saturday from 10:00 am to noon. Please use our back door on the East side of the building next to the roller door. Ring the doorbell and a volunteer will assist you with your donation. Donation receipts are available; please ask for one if it is not offered. You may also place donations in the collection barrels at the Sussex Piggly Wiggly and Pick 'n Save.



**Noah's Ark Christian Learning Center (NACLC)**  
[www.noahs-ark-sussex.org](http://www.noahs-ark-sussex.org) 262.246.9650

**Noah's Ark Christian Learning Center is Nationally Accredited through the National Accreditation Commission Association for Early Learning Leaders.**

*The goal of Noah's Ark Christian Learning Center is to produce happy, intelligent, well-adjusted children. Here you will find a nurturing, educational environment for children of ages 6 weeks to 12 years. Classes include infant, toddler, preschool, 4-K, as well as before and after-school programs. We recognize that each child has unique talents, learning styles and personalities. Our highly-qualified teachers and staff are committed to working within each child's comfort zone to ensure optimal social, emotional and educational results. Classes are kept to a low student-teacher ratio.*

A faith-based, community-centered nonprofit organization serving Waukesha County, Wisconsin

***When volunteering with ERAs, you can decide how much or how little you would like to volunteer. When called for a specific task, you can say no if it does not fit into your schedule.***

Eras Senior Network is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to engage and support seniors, adults with disabilities, and family caregivers in leading meaningful lives. Seniors and adults with disabilities are supported by volunteers of all ages to help them maintain their independence. Eras helps individuals 55 and older stay engaged in their community through a variety of meaningful volunteer opportunities.

**If you or someone you know are in need of our services, please call us at 262.549.3348.**

**Snow Removal** is one of our biggest needs at Eras. Having a clear driveway is important for many reasons: the senior is less likely to fall, emergency personnel have easier access to the house, and Meals on Wheels can be delivered. Like our lawn mowing program, you would be assigned to a senior for the entire winter and shovel their driveway and/or sidewalk after it snows. Most clients have a shovel you can use, otherwise please bring your own. If you'll be on vacation for part of the winter, don't worry! We'll find a sub for you!



**Meal Delivery** Help homebound seniors receive a hot meal. As a Meal Delivery driver, you'll pick up the packaged meals and route at your designated nutrition site by 11:00 am. Each route usually is completed by 1:00 pm. You may be joined by a runner who will walk the meal to the door while you stay in the car, or you may be a solo volunteer and will walk the meal to the door yourself.

**Drivers** Drive seniors and adults with disabilities to healthcare appointments and grocery stores. Only drive when you have the time! This opportunity is very flexible and can be scheduled week to week. If you are new to driving we have some volunteer materials available at the Waukesha Office (2607 N Grandview Blvd, Suite 150, Waukesha, WI.) Please let us know if you are interested in any of the following:

- **Handicap Parking Permit** can be used when transporting clients who need closer building access
- **Volunteer Driver Car Sign** to place on your dashboard to help clients identify your car
- **Photo ID Badge** that will help identify you as an Eras volunteer.

We are also looking for drivers interested in being regularly assigned to a client on a long-term basis. When the client calls to confirm their long-standing appointments, the regular driver will be contacted first to sign up for those events. Any event the regular driver is unable to fulfill will then be available for other volunteers to sign up.



**Friendly Phone Calls** Volunteers are asked to call clients at least once a week to increase socialization with the goal to eventually do in-person friendly visits at the client's home. With the current CDC recommendations for social distancing, in-home visits are on pause until recommendations have changed in an effort to protect both volunteers and clients. Contact Shannon at [Shannon.Fogle@Eras.org](mailto:Shannon.Fogle@Eras.org) or 262.522.2405.

**Card Decorating** Eras Senior Network has **10,000** birthday and holiday cards that will be mailed out to clients throughout the year. We are looking for volunteers to take cards home, decorate them, and return them to either our Greendale or Waukesha office. Contact Becca Snow at [Becca.Snow@eraswaukesha.org](mailto:Becca.Snow@eraswaukesha.org) or 262.522.2409.



## Opportunities for SUMC Nurture, Outreach and Witness (NOW)

**Crafts for a Cause** is a fun and friendly group who makes prayer shawls, lapghans, and prayer squares. Please consider taking one of the easy patterns in the folder on the shelf outside the office and making something at home. You can also help by donating yarn.

**Prayer Shawls** are available for you to take at any time. The display is set up outside the church office.

**Prayer Squares** are small knit or crocheted squares (about 18"- 20" square) to offer to those parents whose babies do not survive the birthing process.

**Lap Robes** are for persons confined to wheelchairs that are often chilly and appreciate a hand crafted blanket to keep their legs and laps warm. Blankets may be knit or crocheted. Size should be from 25" x 36" to 30" x 40".



**Kingdom Workers** If you need help with a project around the house that you are unable to tackle yourself (cleaning gutters, washing windows, small painting projects), contact Pat Keller, Roberta, or Pastor Jim. Your needs will be assessed and a crew will be established to assist you whenever possible. If you are willing to assist when there is a need, let us know to add your name to the list.



**Naomi's Cupboard** This ministry of caring for those recovering from illness or surgery is still active. If you need help as you recover, please contact Verda, the church office or Pastor Jim and meals and other help needed will be arranged. If you are willing to provide meals, please let us know to add your name to the list.

## Giving Funds to the Church Without Giving Cash

Amazon's sister website **Smile.Amazon.com** offers the same goods, prices and shipping as Amazon with a big bonus. If you sign on to Smile.Amazon.com and choose Sussex United Methodist Church as your designated charity a percentage of your Amazon purchases will be directly donated to our church. Just be sure you choose the church in Sussex, WI as there is another Sussex UMC in another state!



**Scrip gift card** purchasing is a great way to benefit the church. There is a six page list of participating retailers that will sell you gift cards then donate a portion back to our church. You can get a copy of the Scrip vendors from the table outside the offices and choose your gift cards. Then give me a list along with a check made out to SUMC for the total and I can order the cards for you. Or, sign on to **Shopwithscrip.com** and set up an account for yourself. Make your account Presto Pay and order your cards online. **Our church enrollment number is FC24B7A136863.** You will need this number to designate your orders go to SUMC. Scrip will then take the correct amount of your purchase out of your account and deposit the profit right in our SUMC checking account. I will process your order and deliver your cards to you either way. Before I can process orders I do need a large enough quantity to cover shipping so the more people that order the more often I can order and the more profit we can make. We are going to designate the Scrip profits to specific needs within our church.

**Questions?** Please contact Debbie Jansen at 262.617.5748 or [dandijansen@gmail.com](mailto:dandijansen@gmail.com).



**Sussex United Methodist Church**  
**Rev. Jim Altman, Pastor**  
**N63 W23523 Main Street, Sussex WI 53089**  
**Website: [www.sussexumc.org](http://www.sussexumc.org)**  
**Office Phone: 262.246.3748**  
**Office Email: [sussexmethodistchurch@gmail.com](mailto:sussexmethodistchurch@gmail.com)**  
**Office Hours: 9:00 am - 1:00 pm Mon. Tue. Thur.**  
**9:00 am - 12:00 pm Wed.**



Find Sussex United Methodist Church on Facebook to hear a hymn, read a summary of the sermon, and see what Scripture was read on Sunday.



**If you would like to have an article posted in our monthly newsletter, please submit it to the church office by the 21<sup>st</sup> of the month.**

**PRAYER FAMILIES**

The purpose of the prayer families is to share our concern and support at times other than during a crisis. Ways to do that are to include the person or family in your prayers during the week. You may wish to let them know that they are in your thoughts by sending a note, talking to them at church or a telephone call. The names are chosen at random, but sometimes seem by design, in that it has come at a particularly appropriate time for them.

- February 7** Kurt & Debra Kenzler  
Carl & Karen Thomsen
- February 14** Paul & Christine Maher  
Kristine Kreuser
- February 21** Mary Zeller  
Jim Altman
- February 28** Jeff & Debbie Jansen  
Eric & Robin Grismer

*February Birthdays*

- 2 Kathryn Meissner
- 11 Eric Grismer
- 14 Joyce Outcalt
- 15 Barbara Hubbard
- 21 Matthew Kolesari
- 26 Gary Christiansen
- 28 Laura Hinrichsen

*February Anniversaries*



**Are you an Online Banker?**

Do you pay any of your bills online through your bank? Did you know that you could set up Sussex United Methodist Church as a payee and a check could come weekly, bi-weekly or monthly - at no additional cost to you?

What benefits are there to doing this? One of the most important would be convenience. Perhaps you are staying safer at home, or you have other commitments on Sunday morning but still wish to support the well-being of your church. Or sometimes it is a scramble to get out of the house and you forgot to write your offering check.

Whatever the reason, consider looking into this option. The church needs your financial support. And if you can't make it on Sunday, you are still doing what you can financially.





**SUSSEX UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
N63 W23523 MAIN STREET  
SUSSEX WI 53089**



**February**

**Sunday Morning Schedule  
9:00 am Traditional Worship**

**Rev. James Altman, Pastor**

**[sussexmethodistchurch@gmail.com](mailto:sussexmethodistchurch@gmail.com)**

**[www.sussexumc.org](http://www.sussexumc.org)**

**262.246.3748**