

**BURNETT COUNTY  
CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**P.O. Box 231 (Must Use PO Box for Mail)**  
7425 W. Birch St. Webster, WI 54893  
(715) 866-7157

---

July 7, 2025

Dearest Brothers and Sisters,

Hello to all! We hope this finds all of you doing well and enjoying the endless blessings of God's beautiful world that He has so graciously provided for us! We were very fortunate that our unpredictable Spring weather was mild and cool. We are not exactly sure why, but the little crocus flowers that always herald the coming of our warmer weather, never did bloom out. We were blessed with a few unusually warm days that caused all of the brown, dead trees and shrubs to suddenly turn into full bloom all at once, in just a few short days. By the time the official date of Summer did arrive, we had already experienced several days in the 90's. We do pray that you all have been spared damage from the severe weather and all of the calamity that we have seen on the news. Our hearts ache for those who have suffered so much.

**MARCH** started with a good turn-out for our monthly Ladies breakfast that was hosted at our home. We began our discussion and thought process on ideas for our Ladies Day this coming Fall.

Our regular 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Potluck was an outreach attempt for March. One of our members had an opportunity to work with a group of people, and he spent several weeks encouraging them to come and worship with us on that particular date. We all made extra food in anticipation of at least twelve (12) people coming, but unfortunately, everyone had last-minute reasons for not showing up. It was disappointing for everyone, but we felt good that we had made a worthy effort to welcome them. Garret had prepared a special sermon for the occasion. And as it turned out, the boyfriend of one of our members who attends occasionally, happened to come. He told one of the other members that the sermon brought up some questions that he wanted answered. We ask that you please pray that this young man's heart will continue to look and seek the truth.

The first Wednesday of March, we were hit with eight (8) inches of snow. Fortunately, because it was not bitter cold, and the snow moves and shovels a lot easier in March and in January, we were able to have class as usual.

Sheila's Mom had another small stroke the second week of March. Her brother called and told us that the nurse was concerned that it might be the beginning of a downward cascade. Fortunately, she was able to recover from the effects of the stroke after several days and a trip to Texas was not necessary.

Garret had his annual doctor's appointment in mid-March. He is working diligently to get off of the prescription medication he is currently on. His doctor was very pleased with his efforts and the results that he has had in lowering his numbers.

Our Brother whose wife has dementia took a very bad fall that resulted in him needing to spend two (2) days in the hospital. Sheila was able to spend the days and evenings with her, and their youngest son took the night shifts. The doctors determined that he fractured a vertebra and re-injured an older injury. Fortunately, he did not need immediate surgery, but he came home in a brace and strict instructions that he could not lift or bend down for twelve (12) weeks. This meant that he could barely care for himself and certainly could not care for his wife. Sheila, the son, and two other ladies from church were able to work out a schedule so that he and his wife had 24-hour care for the time needed.

We were blessed to have a wayward member who has not attended in over twenty (20) years, come to worship service the third week of March. He is the middle son, of the man mentioned above, and he was the one in the terrible accident this past December. He was so appreciative when he found out that the church members had been praying for him throughout his ordeal, that he wanted to come in person and say, "thank you." It was very sweet and emotional, and everyone welcomed him with open arms. He was so touched by the experience that he said he would be back again to worship with us. (To-date, he has been in attendance, more than he has missed). He has a lot of personal issues to work through, and we are trying to help and encourage him, as we can.

We met up with Julie in Osceola and picked up the grandkids to watch them for five (5) days while she went to a Homeschool conference and took a few days to catch up on some personal things. We had a very nice time keeping them occupied and entertained. It is so much easier, now that they are a little older and more engaged in activities and conversations. Sheila and Emma even learned a new crochet pattern together.

We were blessed with the attendance of our Ukrainian visitor. He brought along several members of his family, as well. They could not speak any English, but they seemed to enjoy participating in the service.

We had an ice and snowstorm the last Sunday of March that kept everyone homebound for a while. No one could drive safely on the roads for several hours until they could get the plow-trucks and sand-trucks through all the streets.

**APRIL** began with plans and a new schedule for Sheila to care for our injured Brother and his wife five days a week. A week in, the wife was approved for five (5) days of respite, which gave everyone helping out a few days to catch up on other things. While she was in the Frederic Care Center, we were able to stop in for a visit with her. We were also able to make a trip down to visit our other Sister who now lives in the Cumberland Nursing Home.

One of our other members started having heart issues and was required to wear a heart monitor for a while. We were all very relieved that they were able to determine that her heart was not damaged, but she needed to make some changes in other areas to make the palpitations go away.

We had the opportunity to go down to the Twin Cities and participate in the Annual Bible Lectures that the STC congregation hosts. It is something that we look forward to each year. It is such a great time to refresh and renew our spirits with sound Gospel preaching. This year's topic was on the book of II Peter. The sermons were wonderful and the fellowship was great. We always look forward to the hospitality of our dear friends who attend there.

Garret helped facilitate the ADRC (Meals on Wheels Program) physical move from the old site in Siren to the new Central Kitchen site here in Webster. After many delays and frustrations, they were finally able to get everything squared away and in one place. The brand-new facility is one block away from our house, so he has been able to save time and gas.

The first few days of **MAY** were very hectic for Garret as he helped with the Mealsite. Working out all the kinks and glitches of the new facility were challenging. You don't know what really doesn't work, until you try to use it to make one hundred-fifty (150) meals at once! Now that the Mealsite is just a few blocks from the church building, it has been easier to direct people and encourage them to "Come over to the little white church building two blocks away, sometime." Garret talked with two of the people that came for the first week's lunch at the Center, and they came to worship the next Sunday! Afterwards, they both said that they enjoyed the service, but they were going to be out of town for a while on summer vacation. We are hoping that they will come again when they get back from their long trip.

As our Brother with the broken back recovered slowly, it was obvious that his wife was declining rapidly. God's timing was both bitter-sweet and a blessing at the same time. Sheila was honored and privileged to be at her bedside reading Psalms and Proverbs continually to her the last three days of her life here on earth. As Sheila finished up the last verses that evening, the husband came in the room and told Sheila to go home and get some rest. He then called in the family, they said their goodbyes, and soon after, she went home to be with the Lord on the night of May 10th.

Her passing was hard on everyone, especially on Mother's Day the 11th. She was loved by all: her family, dear friends, and especially her church Brothers and Sisters. Garret met with the family the next day to make all the necessary arrangements for the funeral and the luncheon. We helped with picture boards and getting the house arranged for guests. Garret did a beautiful service highlighting the Proverbs 31 attributes that Karen had portrayed and fulfilled throughout her life.

After the funeral and all the luncheon was clean up, we were off to Amery to watch our three grandchildren participate in a beautiful piano recital. It is surreal how life ebbs and flows. One moment there is mourning for a loved one who has come to the end of their journey, and in the same day, there is the celebration of the accomplishments of little ones that have their whole life ahead of them.



We, along with one of the other ladies from church spent the next week or so helping our Brother rearrange things, handle clothing, and deal with other items that needed to be taken care of. He was so appreciative that he didn't have to face it all alone. Our dear Sister's parting has left such a void and a hole in our church family. It will take a lot of time to work through all the pain and loss. Fortunately, all of those feelings will eventually be replaced with the assurance, comfort, and hope

that we will meet again, and spend eternity together with our Lord.

Garret's volunteering and work at the Mealsite almost doubled for two weeks as he dealt with new issues that came up. He had to have meetings with several people and make arrangements for different things to take place. It was a great opportunity to show other people in the community sympathy, patience, and kindness as he dealt with circumstances that were not going well. It was obvious in some of the situations that the other people involved were not expecting Garret's calm, patient reaction to the problems.

We decided not to do our annual May garage sale. With everything that was going on, we were both emotionally and physically exhausted. However, by opening up our time, we had the opportunity to spend the weekend with one of our "Cabin Couples". As always, it was a little slice of Heaven to be out at their place enjoying the natural beauty of God's creation, and sharing in fellowship with our Brother and Sister. We were also blessed that they came home with us on Sunday after worship and we shared more time and a meal together.

We took time on the last weekend of May to work on our front lawn. We reported in an earlier update that our neighbor's very large tree fell in our yard and damaged a section of our lawn and lilac bushes. We worked out a plan to redo the damaged area with some low fencing, some rock work, and to fill-in the open space with grass and some Hostas. We will send pictures when it's all done. (Don't hold your breath, it will take us months, lol!)

**JUNE** began with finalizing plans and running last-minute shopping errands for our Annual Men's Retreat. We were honored to have members of the South Twin Cities (STC) congregation help with some of the devotionals. They were also very kind to bring their grill and provide the meat for our Saturday lunch meal. We were blessed with 36 men that were able to participate. This year was our best attended event, so far. We would have topped 40, but a few men had health issues that prohibited them from coming. The men and the boys had fun participating in some group activities that allowed them to work together in a common goal.

We decided to push our first Sunday Potluck to the second week, so we could provide lunch for the men that were able to stay overnight on Saturday. This year we had thirteen (13) men who worshipped with us which brought our attendance for Sunday morning to forty (40) for worship. It was so wonderful to have a full house praising the Lord all together!



Our granddaughter, Emma, was invited on a special trip with her other set of grand-parents. She was extremely excited, to say the least, until she realized that she would be gone over the weekend. She knew her grandpa and grandma would not take her to church, and she was really upset. Then, she remembered and told her mother that, "Papa's congregation does Zoom!" and she could participate that way. We got it all worked out between everyone, and they allowed her to stop and worship with us before they went about their day. We were so proud of her for knowing how important worship is and for standing up to make it happen. It made quite an impression on her other grand-parents, as well.

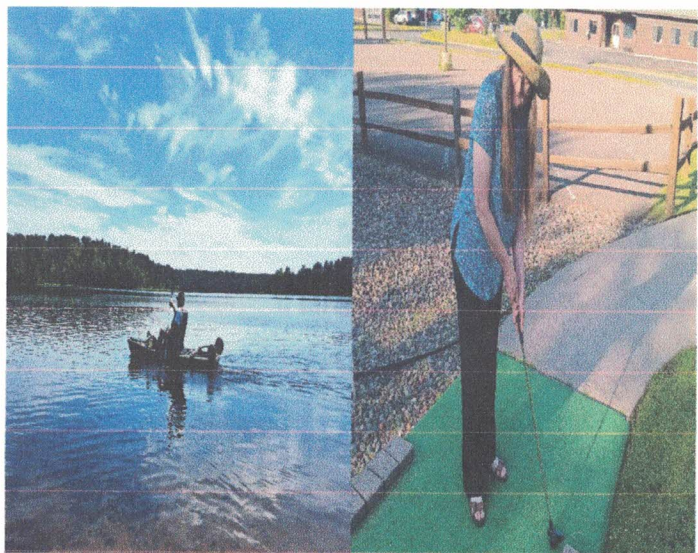
We were sad to lose another of our faithful members to the nursing home. But, it was time for her to receive the care she needed in a facility. It is a long, hard story, but her best interests are being served. We will miss her sweet demeanor and contagious smile in our worship services.

The afternoon before Father's Day, Garret became very ill. He suddenly came down with chills, aches, and a high fever, and had to go to bed. The next afternoon, we found a tick on his leg, and a very large, red bite area. It all made sense, when we realized that he had seven of the eight symptoms of Lyme's Disease. On Monday, he went to the clinic

for a test. He got a round of antibiotics, and he spent another day in bed. We were told that it would probably take several weeks to get over the effects and the fatigue. He finally felt better by his birthday, but he still didn't do any of his volunteer work or drive for another week.

We had our hottest days of the year the third week of June. One of our member's central air-conditioning units went out, and they were really struggling with the heat. We let them borrow an extra window unit of ours, so they could at least cool off a room or two. The very next day, we figured out that our unit was not working correctly, but we were able to make it through the hot stretch with some creative maneuvers.

Garret was finally feeling better, so we were able to celebrate Father's Day, along with Garret and Aaron's birthdays, together with Julie and her family. The next day we went for a wonderful kayak ride and played some miniature golf at a local spot.



The month ended with one of our member's sons being taken by ambulance to the hospital with bee stings and heat exhaustion. Later, he was transferred to a hospital in the Cities because they were concerned that he was having a heart attack. After two (2) days of observation and lots of testing, they determined that his heart was not damaged.

Sheila is still doing Physical Therapy and Speech Therapy twice a week for one of our members. She still volunteers at the resale Shop twice a week, and walks our neighbor's dog daily.

We are still engaged in our regular visits to the nursing home to see our dear Sister. Her family comments how much they appreciate that we haven't forgotten her. Garret completed Philipians and Colossians in our Sunday Morning Class, and we are about to begin I Thessalonians. Garret's Wednesday Evening Class finished up a study on the subject of "Beyond Death". He is now going

through a series on "The 'GO' Statements in the Scriptures. We are still engaged in a continuing series on the Book of Acts for our Sunday morning worship time. The men have begun a discussion on planning a Gospel Meeting. They were going to set one for August/September, but realized that there were already too many outside conflicts. The congregation is focusing our attention, for the moment, on our upcoming Vacation Bible School.

Please to pray for us, as we continue to strive with wisdom and discernment to meet the needs of our community and the members here in Wisconsin. We think of you and pray for you, as well. We each have our place in the Kingdom, to do the work where we are planted. We so appreciate your love, your commitment, and your support. It gives us strength to know that you are with us in spirit, laboring beside us, for the common cause of sharing Christ and showing God's love and His grace to all that we have contact with.

*Grace, Peace, & Love to All,*

*Garret & Sheila*

*Garret & Sheila Derouin*

