



Raymond Community Church,
United Church of Christ

**CHURCH PROFILE
2026**

8217 West 6 Mile Road
Franksville, WI 53126
262-835-2157

Web: raymondchurchucc.org
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POSITION POSTING:

Seeking Settled Pastor for 1/4-time plus*

A BRIEF HISTORY:

WHERE WE BEGAN: The original church was Mt. Pleasant Congregational Church, as the area was known as Mt. Pleasant at the time. Services were held in the members' homes. From 1846-1848, a church was built on 5 Mile Road and renamed Raymond Congregational Church. Over the next 100-plus years, there were many changes with mergers of other faith groups in the area to help financially support pastors.

In 1955, a gift of four acres of land on Hwy G was given, and a new church building was started in 1957 and dedicated in September 1958. More than 10,000 volunteer labor hours were provided by our members.

In 1973, Raymond United Church of Christ joined four Methodist churches and Union Grove Congregational Church, UCC, in a Yoke called the New Hope Larger Parish. Three pastors were hired to share in the ministries of these six churches. The New Hope Larger Parish continued for 17 years.

In January 1992, Raymond United Church of Christ joined in a new Yoke agreement with Union Grove Congregational Church, UCC. In 1997, Pastor Manda Stack was hired by the Yoke and served as our pastor for 23 years, offering support and dedication. There was a feeling of loss for our members when she left, but a door also opened to new beginnings and growth opportunities. The Yoke with Union Grove Congregational Church was strong until December 31, 2025, when the Union Grove Church voted to dissolve the yoke.

In 2001, a beautiful addition was added to our existing church and includes a new sanctuary, narthex, three offices, and entryway. Again, countless

volunteer labor hours were donated by members and others. The old sanctuary is now our fellowship hall and Sunday school rooms.

Coinciding with the move into our new sanctuary in 2001, our members voted to change the church name to Raymond Community Church, UCC. This opened the doors to a community preschool operated by Jeanne Demjen for 17 years. She continues to be a dedicated church member.

Physically, our church building is in the peaceful countryside — surrounded by soybean and corn fields — in the Village of Raymond, approximately 20 miles southwest of the city of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The main corridor of Interstate 94 is just 3 miles away, making us very accessible.

WHERE WE ARE NOW: In November 2019, we welcomed Pastor Kelsey Beebe as our Intentional Interim Minister. Working with the Conference, Pastor Beebe became our Settled Minister for the next three years. Pastor Beebe's husband is also a minister and accepted a position in another state, which created an opportunity for a new pastor to lead our congregation. Reverend Howard Hunt joined us as our Intentional Interim Pastor in 2024. We shared a part-time administrative assistant with Union Grove Congregational Church at that time; she is now solely supporting Raymond Community Church. We have a music committee who coordinates hymns with the minister and special music during church services and have an organist who plays for church each Sunday as well as for weddings and funerals upon request.

On December 31, 2025, our Yoke separated. January 1, 2026, Licensed Pastor Lesley Buelow joined us as our Quarter-time Intentional Interim Minister. Her contract is for one year, as she and her husband are building a new home and have plans to move by year's end.

OUR LEADERSHIP:

UCC Association Conference Minister: Pastor Rachel Bauman

608-630-2992, email: rbauman@wcucc.org

Wisconsin Conference website: www.wcucc.org

UCC Denomination website: www.ucc.org

CHURCH AFFILIATIONS:

Our church's current affiliations include Union Grove Congregational Church, UCC; Yorkville United Methodist Church; Union Grove United Methodist Church; North Cape Lutheran Church; and Oak Creek Community United Methodist Church.

CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT:

We seek to bear witness to the good news of God's love for the church and for the World as revealed in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

OUR MISSION:

Some of our Mission projects and programs include:

- Monthly Amazing Grays Senior Lunch in cooperation with North Cape Lutheran Church
- Union Grove Area Foodbank
- Mitten Tree
- Helping Hands Missions
- Prayer Blankets
- Heifer Project International
- Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM)
- Neighbors in Need
- The Christmas Fund
- One Great Hour of Sharing
- Strengthen the Church
- Mission trips, such as Midwest Distribution Center
- Sunday school and Vacation Bible School for all

- Bible and book studies
- Supporting Little Veterans Homes program in Racine

CONGREGATIONAL DEMOGRAPHICS:

- As of January 2026, we have 69 members of all ages, including young families with children, empty nesters and retirees, all leading to a thriving church family.
- The total number of participants who have been in the church for more than 10 years is about 40.

FELLOWSHIP AT OUR CHURCH:

- Christian Cafe after worship the second and fourth Sundays of the month
- Amazing Grays Senior Luncheon
- Joint worship and luncheons with other local churches to promote fellowship and friendship
- Special music during worship service
- Pancake breakfasts and potluck luncheons
- Family Fall Fest

OUR CHURCH BELIEFS:

We believe in the triune God: Creator, resurrected Christ, the sole Head of the church, and the Holy Spirit, who guides and brings about the creative and redemptive work of God in the world.

We believe that each person is unique and valuable. It is the will of God that every person belongs to a family of faith where they have a strong sense of being valued and loved.

We believe that each person is on a spiritual journey and that each of us is at a different stage of that journey.

We believe that the persistent search for God produces an authentic relationship with God, engendering love, strengthening faith, dissolving guilt, and giving life purpose and direction.

We believe that all the baptized 'belong body and soul to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.' No matter who — no matter what — no matter where we are on life's journey — notwithstanding race, gender, sexual orientation, class or creed — we all belong to God and to one worldwide community of faith. All persons baptized — past, present and future — are connected to each other and to God through the sacrament of baptism. We baptize during worship when the community is present because baptism includes the community's promise of 'love, support and care' for the baptized — and we promise that we won't take it back — no matter where your journey leads you.

We believe that all people of faith are invited to join Christ at Christ's table for the sacrament of Communion. Just as many grains of wheat are gathered to make one loaf of bread and many grapes are gathered to make one cup of wine, we, the many people of God, are made one in the body of Christ, the church. The breaking of bread and the pouring of wine reminds us of the costliness of Christ's sacrifice and the discipleship to which we are all called. In the breaking of bread, we remember and celebrate Christ's presence among us along with a 'cloud of witnesses' — our ancestors, family and friends who have gone before us. It is a great mystery; we claim it by faith.

We believe the UCC is called to be a united and uniting church. "That they may all be one." (John 17:21) "In essentials — unity, in non-essentials — diversity, in all things — charity." These UCC mottos survive because they touch core values deep within us. The UCC has no rigid formulation of doctrine or attachment to creeds or structures. Its overarching creed is love. UCC pastors and teachers are known for their commitment to excellence in theological preparation, interpretation of the

scripture and justice advocacy. Even so, love and unity in the midst of our diversity are our greatest assets.

We believe that God calls us to be servants in the service of others and to be good stewards of the earth's resources. 'To believe is to care; to care is to do.'

We believe that the UCC is called to be a prophetic church. As in the tradition of the prophets and apostles, God calls the church to speak truth to power, liberate the oppressed, care for the poor and comfort the afflicted.

We believe in the power of peace, and work for nonviolent solutions to local, national, and international problems.

We are a people of possibility. In the UCC, members, congregations and structures have the breathing room to explore and to hear ... for after all, God is still speaking.

ACCESSIBILITY ACCOMMODATIONS:

Raymond Community Church has a wheelchair accessible entrance that leads to our main floor sanctuary, gathering room and handicap accessible restroom.

CULTURE:

Nestled between rows of corn and grazing livestock, our church community is made up of generations of farmers. These hardworking families of parents, children, grandparents and grandchildren are still with us today. In addition, there are new home developments that have brought more diversity to our church. This includes professionals, blue collar workers, tradesmen and healthcare workers. While the church is set in a beautiful, country area, nearby amenities are within 10 minutes. There are a wide

variety of stores, restaurants, parks and hotels. In addition, hospitals and clinics are near for almost every need.

STEWARDSHIP:

We have an annual stewardship drive held each November to obtain monetary commitments to support the financial requirements for operational needs as proposed in the following year's budget. We are fortunate to have received special gifts to allow for the building of our current sanctuary in 2001. Some member-led teams spearhead fundraising efforts which have allowed us to purchase a new Carillon system that plays songs twice a day for our neighbors, an automated external defibrillator (AED) for the safety and well-being of members and guests, as well as make improvements to our electrical and plumbing systems, and maintenance of our parking lot. A new computer system was purchased to implement YouTube to stream our church services to reach a wider population as well as church members unable to attend in person.

Physical stewardship is accomplished by volunteers sharing much of our normal church maintenance, including cleaning the church, mowing our three acres of lawn and window washing, to name a few. Part of our stewardship includes member-supported donations of cash and nonperishable food supplies for our area food pantry in Union Grove. And finally, our decorating committee works hard to keep our entry doors adorned with beautifully made wreaths and sanctuary and narthex areas decorated for the seasons.

OUR WORSHIP LIFE:

Our sermon content expectations are to be relevant and biblically based, reflective of our spiritual, social and emotional issues that challenge Christian's every day. We look to be guided in our thinking and prayer life to

spread the word of Christ's boundless love. We celebrate with a variety of traditional and current music played and/or recorded by our exceptional organists, as well as special vocalists and musicians from our church and community. We hold special joint services with several of our neighboring churches on key days, i.e., Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, to name a few.

Our worship services can include both pastoral and lay/member participation providing scripture readings. We may hold a special service led by members of the church in the absence of our pastor, saving us the costs of hiring a pulpit supply pastor.

WHAT WE ARE SEEKING IN A NEW PASTOR:

We seek a Settled Pastor at a 1/4-time+ level, who will:

- Be an effective preacher/speaker/communicator.
- Be a proactive leader with good administrative skills.
- Know the Bible and live according to its teachings.
- Make pastoral calls to people in hospitals and nursing homes and those confined to their homes.
- Reach out to inactive members by creating a group to contact them and promote our church to bring in new members.
- Be effective in working with children by helping to expand activities for our children and young teens to further their relationship with God and others.
- Have a pastoral heart and show love and care for others.
- Be approachable, enthusiastic and outgoing, while being compassionate, empathetic and genuine.
- Be good with social media, including ministry.

COMPENSATION AND SUPPORT:

The financial needs of each candidate are taken into consideration along with the Compensation guidelines of the Wisconsin Conference United Church of Christ.

An allowance for continuing education, travel reimbursement, books and resources is offered. Vacation time, sick leave and other time off may be offered.

WHAT DO WE NEED TO BE A HEALTHIER FAITH-FILLED CHURCH?

- More *active* members. Currently, 20% of the members are accomplishing 80% of the missions and outreach into our community, and internally through committees.
- A welcoming church for the young people and more family-oriented, possibly through new, contemporary music while still including traditional hymns.
- More Community outreach/mission driven.
- Networking with other local churches, other organizations.

WHAT WOULD THIS CHURCH LOOK LIKE IF WE FIND A GOOD PASTOR?

- More members and volunteers — increased attendance at worship services.
- More enthusiastic and dynamic, passionate outreach in the community.

WHAT STRENGTHS DO WE NEED TO WORK ON IN THE NEXT 5 YEARS?

- Continue building on our youth programs.
- Family activities and working with schools or our kids' sports groups.

- Bible studies/spiritual exploration for men, women and youth groups with the help of the pastor, Faith Development Committee, and Mission Outreach Team.
- Strengthen our stewardship to accomplish more community outreach and missions.

Attachments:

11-year Report from UCC Conference
Summary of Person Attendance 2019

Search Committee members: Jeanne Demjen, Tisha Hodgins, Stephanie James, Dale Meyer, Marilyn Slesar, Rick Slesar, Cindy Spitz