

First United Church of Christ
504 Washington Ave.
Sauk City, WI 53583

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Find us:

- www.ucc-saukcity.org
- firstuccsauk.churchtrac.com
- For the Youtube channel type:
“ *First UCC Sauk City Youtube* ” into your search engine
- On Facebook at: First United Church of Christ- Sauk City

*Or if you'd like to sit down with the pastor
and solve the world's problems over a cup of
coffee, give me a call. I'll buy the first cup.
Brad Brookins—608-669-2926 (or drop me an email)*

The Scoop

April, 2023

This Month at First...

April 2—9:00 a.m. Special Palm/Passion
worship service in the Sanctuary
April 6—6:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday
Tenebrae service in the Sanctuary
April 7—1:30 p.m. Good Friday Service
April 9—9:00 a.m. Easter Celebration!
April 11—6:00 p.m. Christian Fellowship
meeting in the Ed. Building kitchen
April 20—6:00 p.m. Consistory Meeting

Interim Pastor: Pastor Brad Brookins
Office hours: 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.
Monday through Thursday
Office phone: 608-643-8387
Office email: office@ucc-saukcity.org
Pastor's Cell phone: 608-669-2926
Email: brad_brookins@ucc-saukcity.org

From the Pastor's desk...

April, 2023

90

131

502

193

In a saner country, in a saner world, these would simply be numbers. Numbers that might bring you joy or happy anticipation—The number of daffodils and crocuses springing up through the melting snow in your yard; the number of migrating birds you've seen passing through; the number of friends you'd like to have dinner within the coming year.

But ours is not a sane world.

90 is the number of days that have passed since the first of January this year.

131 is the number of mass shootings that have occurred in those 90 days.

502 is the number of people who have been wounded in those shootings.

193 is the number of people who have been killed.¹

Now we've had to add the Nashville victims to that list: 9-year-olds William Kinney, Evelyn Dieckhaus, and Hallie Scruggs, and their teachers Katherine Koonce, Mike Hill, and Cynthia Peak.

Infinite is the number of tears that have been shed by God and by the parents, family and friends of the children and adults who have been the victims of this insanity.

Infinite, too—or so it seems, are the hypocritical “thoughts and prayers” sent up by the politicians who, at the very least, have the power to make these deadly events less common. Instead, because of cowardice or greed or just the hunger for power, they let themselves be held captive to the National Rifle Association and their gun-loving minions who, in spite of all their denials, clearly love their weapons of war than more than they love our children.

We must pray, of course, for the families suffering unimaginable loss and pain, and for the communities broken by these senseless, violent rampages. But we must also remember that prayer, if it is genuine, will change us as much as anything. It will change the way we act, the way we speak in public, what we stand for and who we vote for.

What we witnessed in Nashville this week—and in the 130 other mass shootings this year, is far from God's will for the world. This is not something the Body of Christ can tolerate or accommodate itself to. It is a tragedy we must, together, stand against and resist. In Jesus name, and for the sake of our children, we must resist.

In hope always,

Brad

Opinions expressed on this page are mine and do not necessarily represent those of the congregation as a whole.

¹ ABC News <https://abcnews.go.com/GMA/News/video/mass-shootings-rise-2023-98173635>

If you can't be with us in person, you have other options. And we'd love to have you join us any way you can—



View our Live YouTube broadcast of the 9:00 a.m. service. Recordings of past services, can also be seen on our YouTube channel. Type “*First UCC Sauk City YouTube*” into your search engine



We have a live radio broadcast of the worship service every Sunday at 9:00 a.m. Tune in to WRPQ Radio—AM 740, FM 99.7, or Live Stream the audio from the WRPQ.com website.

Radio broadcast sponsorship spots are available!

If you would like to sponsor a radio broadcast in memory of a loved one or for any other special reason, please contact the church office by phone or email and we will give you the list of available dates.

Special thanks to our March Radio Sponsors

Sharon, Kelsey, & Owen Diehl
Steve & Marcy Thurwachter
Rod & Carol Hehenberger

We appreciate you.



Update on the book drive for Hope House of Sauk County:

We were able to collect 1,039 books overall. St John's had 596 books UCC had 443.
Thank you for all the generous help!
Sam Logterman

Consistory Minutes

First United Church of Christ—Sauk City
Thursday, March 16, 2023


Those Present: Rose Kleinert, Carrie Finley, Tammy Young, Peggy Ganser, Heather Miller, Barb Sprecher, Tim Henning


Absent: Pastor Brad

 Opening Prayer: Rose Kleinert


 Pastor Brad's Words

○ See April Scoop

 Welcome – Tim Henning


 Committees:

- Maintenance: Mark Pierick is now overseeing
- Christian Fellowship: Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, April 11th at 6:00 p.m.
- Members In Ministry: Calls and visits are being made.
- Open and Affirming: Pastor Brad looking for volunteers to March in the Mount Horeb Frolic Parade on June 11th. Orders are being accepted for the High School Pride t-shirts.
- Stewardship: No meeting recently
- Sunday School: See report in April Scoop

 New Business Issues

- Checking into softwarekeep.com to get MS Office, without any ongoing subscription.

Tammy Young made a motion to adjourn, Carrie Finley seconded. Meeting adjourned.

 Next Consistory Meeting: April 20, 2023 @ 6:00 p.m.

Minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting
First United Church of Christ
Sunday, March 5, 2023

1. Call to Order – Rose Kleinert
2. Opening Prayer – Pastor Brad Brookins
3. Declaration of Quorum – Minimum of 10% of the membership as per First UCC Constitution
 - a. 47 members present in sanctuary.
 - b. 4 online.
4. Appointment of Parliamentarian, Head Teller, and Tellers
 - a. Parliamentarian – Tim Homar
 - b. Head Teller – Emily Fuchs
 - c. Teller – Kathy Johnson
5. Consider Approval of Minutes from the 2022 Annual Congregational Meeting of March 6, 2022
 - a. Tim Homar made a motion to approve the 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes, Tamara Straub seconded, motion carried.
6. Consider Approval of Financial Reports and Proposed 2022 Budget
 - a. Tamara Straub made a motion to approve the 2022 Financial Report, Mark Pierick seconded, motion carried.
7. Tim Homar presented the proposed 2023 Budget.
 - a. Sherry Pieper asked what the rent is for the parsonage. Rent for the parsonage is \$1,350 per month. 2023 has been budgeted for 9 months since the lease started in March of 2023 and is for six months with the ability to extend monthly.
 - b. Marcy Thurwachter asked if we can use the Memorial Fund to sponsor any unsponsored radio broadcasts.
 - c. Budget amount of \$5,000 for rent from Sauk Prairie Nursery Center: We receive additional funds from them for using the copy machine.
 - d. Tammie Huerth made a motion to approve the 2023 Budget, Mark Pierick seconded, motion carried.
8. Consider Approval of Committee Reports as presented in the Annual Report
 - a. Peggy Ganser made a motion to approve all Committee Reports, seconded by Sharol Steuber, motion passed.

9. Update on: Capital Project(s)

- a. There are none currently, no major projects in the pipeline, only routine maintenance.
- b. Tammie Huerth asked if we can use Memorial Funds for replacement of the sign out front that is from 1957. Robin Meier said we can, but we need to remember that our Memorial Fund is our reserve fund. The less we use it the more we retain for future needs.
- c. Sharol Steuber asked about the services needed for the elevator. Dean Dahnert said that service calls are \$500 per hour and the hydraulic repair would be approximately \$10,000. With the little use of the elevator, the repairs are not currently a great need as it is working fine. Jamie Wittwer stated the elevator was installed in 1997.
- d. Tamara Straub asked what the balance was currently in the Memorial Fund. Robin Meier stated the balance is \$76,346.97.
- e. Online question: Once the church is more stable, can we re-establish a Memorial Committee? Rose stated we are in the process of re-visiting all committees.

10. Church Constitution:

- a. We are still in the process of revising the constitution therefore we are not ready for this to be approved.
- b. Consistory would like to reduce the number of consistory members from 9 to 7.
- c. Cliff Lawton asked who our volunteer coordinator for the congregation is for members to reach out to if they want to be on a committee. Rose suggested reaching out to the consistory.
- d. Tim Homar made a motion to reduce consistory members from 9 to 7 and consistory shall still work on revising the constitution. Tammie Huerth seconded; motion passed.
- e. Tamara Straub asked how we determine what an “Active” member of the church is. Pastor Brad said we are still working on that definition.
- f. Kathy Johnson asked if the subcommittee would be able to set a deadline for the completion of the revised constitution. Rose said that we will.
- g. Tim Herbrand asked if we could put information in the constitution that states we have to have the same number of males and females. Rose Kleinert said we need to have enough volunteers to make that happen.
- h. Tim Homar stated that we currently have 8 committees with most of the same people on each committee as we have no volunteers. We need to look at these committees to see they are all needed, can we combine some, etc.

11. New Business – Issues from the Congregation

- a. Cliff Lawton wants to know why we only go to Biloxi for the mission trip when there are plenty of other places that may need our mission work: Tornado areas, more local, etc. Rose Kleinert said this is an item that we need to discuss. Sue Herbrand said that the mission work is also given local food pantries, St Judge, etc. Most of those in Biloxi don't have insurance to pay for the items they need help for. The homes in the last couple of years have been for homeless veterans.
- b. Brigitta Brickl would like to see the church revisit safety issues regarding intruder training, signage in place and a policy to include service animals in the building. CPR training.

12. Consistory Elections – 1 Position

- a. Nominee 1 Tim Henning – 3-year term
- b. Tim Homar made the motion to accept all four nominees, Tamara Straub seconded, motion passed.

13. Introduction of Consistory Members – Rose Kleinert

- a. Barb Sprecher
- b. Peggy Ganser
- c. Heather Miller
- d. Rose Kleinert
- e. Carrie Finley
- f. Tammy Young
- g. Tim Henning

14. Pastor Brad's Report

15. Consider Adjournment

- a. Liz Bongard made a motion to adjourn meeting, Tim Homar seconded, motion passed.

16. Closing Prayer – Pastor Brad Brookins

Christian Fellowship



There was no meeting in March.

Upcoming:

Coffee Fellowship:

April 23rd Spring

cleaning: Date

suggestions?

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 11th 6:00 pm in the Educational building kitchen.



Pastoral Search Committee Update

Our Pastoral Search Committee has been putting in many hours completing our Church Profile. Our goal is to complete the Church Profile by the end of April and get it out on the Conference's website for viewing by potential applicants. We will keep the Congregation updated on that process. If you have any questions, please feel free to talk to any of the Pastoral Search Committee members.

Tammie Huerth

Pastoral Search Committee Chair



Christian Education News



What Has Been Happening

- Sunday March 5th we had our St Patrick's Day Decorations for people to fill out as they wait for the Annual Meeting to start. These were given to Members in Ministry to deliver on their visits.
- We had the Christian Education meeting on March 8th. Things are going well for the school year and next year's theme has been announced! We will start marketing next year enrollment in May. "God's Love is Deeper than the Ocean, Let's make a SPLASH!"
- We are considering a Summer Vacation Bible School Program. Let Mrs. Brickl know if you are interested in participating as a student or volunteer.

Upcoming events

- Sunday April 2nd- Easter Egg Hunt after church - we can use all the Confirmation students and Adults to help hide Eggs. Last year it was a great turn out and we will have a small fellowship again up in the 2nd floor Education Building for Adults willing to stay and help.
- Sunday April 9th- Easter, No Sunday School or Confirmation
- Sunday April 16- 2nd Year Confirmation will be decorating Stoles
- Wednesday April 19th 5:30-6:30 Youth Group. (Capture the Flag)
- Sunday May 7th, potluck and fellowship (**ALL** Church activity)
- Saturday May 20th Confirmation Breakfast for 2nd year students at Eagle Inn
- Sunday May 21st Confirmation Sunday 9:00 and Sundae Sunday for Sunday School Students

Youth Group and Education Class Photos on our Church Connect Site

Christian Education Questions or Ideas please send to:

firstuccsaukce@gmail.com



MUSIC AT FIRST CHURCH

First Choir is looking forward to sharing music for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Sunday and beyond. Rehearsals are at 6:45 PM in the choir room on the lower level of the Educational Building. We always welcome new members whether it be for a short time or the “long haul.” Even though we’re barely into spring, suggestions for special music for this summer are always welcome. Thanks to all for your support and encouragement of music at First Church. Please continue to sing out in our worship services. God does not pass judgement on your ability, only your participation!

Dennis J. Kahn, Music Director



Flowers, Flowers, Flowers! For the Easter Garden



First UCC is looking for donations of flowering plants to grace our Easter Garden.

Donations can be dropped off at the Education Building on Friday, April 7th or Saturday, April 8th from 9:00 – 12:00.

Please specify on the signup sheet on the table in the hallway if you would like your plant returned.



And More Flowers

Its time to start thinking about our spring/summer flowers that are planted to brighten the grounds around the church and the park. If you would like to make a monetary donation you can drop off your check/envelope in the offering plate, at the church office, or mail it to the church office. Make sure you indicate “Flower Fund” in the memo line of your check. We try and target planting in time for Mother’s Day (weather permitting).

Stock the Schools

We are collecting individual packages of pretzels and Cheez-its and \$25 gift cards to the Piggly Wiggly and Hanson’s IGA. Donations can be dropped off in the red collection tote outside the education door on weekdays or inside the hall on Sundays.



Herm & Deb Tschudy
and
Jay & Sandy Jensen

April 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2  PALM SUNDAY	3 Amy Bachuber	4 Sharon Diehl Verda McFarlane	5 Frank Kirchstein	6	7	8 Jane Litscher
9 	10	11	12 Matt Moseman	13	14 Ken Meier	15
16	17	18	19 Audrey Brickl Cecy Haines Sherry Pieper	20	21	22 Roger Heidenreich
23 Reagan Noltner	24	25	26	27 Kim Baier	28 Austin Perry Scott Kinnamon Derek Sliter David Young	29
30 Haden Haas Katie Huerth	1					