

First United Church of Christ

504 Washington Avenue

Sauk City, WI 53583

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



THE SCOOP

August 2024

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

This Month at First Church...

August 12th Opening & Affirming 4:30pm
August 15th Consistory 6pm
August 25th Coffee Fellowship

Pastor: *Reverend Jennifer Seach* Office
hours: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Monday through Thursday
Office phone: 608-643-8387

Pastors email: pastorjennifer@ucc-saukcity.org
Office email: office@ucc-saukcity.org



Pastor Jennifer Seach

Hello dear Sauk City UCC! I am your new pastor.

It is truly lovely to be at this wonderful church. I have met so many good people already and look forward to meeting more of you.

Wonderful churches are made up of humans, and anything involving humans can be sticky at times. People can be incredibly kind, generous, and loving. People can also be petty, bullheaded, and self-centered. Being a community of people means that there are and will be bumps. Jesus knew this. He addressed it multiple times.

Rev James Forbes, theologian and former pastor of Riverside Church Manhattan, said a congregation where anyone enjoys more than 75% of what happens at church is not diverse or integrated enough. You are not supposed to like everything that happens at church. Some sermons will be too much social justice. Some will be too spiritual. Others will have too much ancient history. This is all fine because someone will love social justice and be bored by biblical context; another will wish I would stop with justice and do more upbeat sermons. That is okay. I have been surprised at the number of times that someone has said "That sermon was for me today. It was exactly what I needed" This is a wonderful thing to hear, and the sermon may not have been what another beloved member needed. If there is a bit in worship that leaves you cold- a hymn, welcome statement, prayers of the people, rainbows, Lord's prayer, whatever....that is okay. Maybe that part is not for you. Maybe someone else- sitting in the next pew, listening on the radio, or watching on Youtube- loves it. This is how church is supposed to work.

On Sunday, we have the privilege of gathering together as a beloved community-old, young, and in between; straight, gay, and in between, and a whole host of religious and cultural backgrounds, personal histories, personality types, abilities and disabilities.

Church is holy chaos and always has been. A church that never upset anyone would be incredibly bland. Imagine making one dish for a dinner party that the vegetarians, carnivores, spice lovers, veggie lovers, gluten-free, the children and teens and elders in your family would all eat. It would have to be bland. How might you prepare a meal that all those diverse folks will actually like? Lots of vegetables, a meat dish, something safe, something exotic, good bread, a bottle of hot sauce on the side, and a really good dessert or two- plus fruit for those who can't have dessert.

If you haven't been to church for a while, right now is an excellent time to come back- not because of a new pastor. Come back because this is your church, your community. Come back because intentional time for God and your spirit is essential. Come back because church happens as community. Come back because those things that you do not like should not get in the way of all the good that you can receive here and that you can do here. Come back because you can always take a Sunday afternoon nap instead of sleeping in. Come back because whatever hurts or upsets you carry are small compared to Divine love and grace (and if they are not small, I would like to hear about those too) I so look forward to getting to know you all. Please be in touch if you'd like to talk-about a serious issue or just a visit.

Blessings, Pastor Jennifer

People are our First Priority...

If you can't be with us in person, you have other options.

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. The cost is \$90 a broadcast, keep in mind that you can share a slot with anyone.

HELP US KEEP OUR CHURCH DIRECTORY UP TO DATE!

Please let us know when your mailing address, phone number or email address has changed, or will change, so we do not leave you out of any church mailings.

CONSISTORY

Consistory Meeting Agenda **Thursday, July 18, 2024**

Present: Pastor Jennifer, Rose Kleinert, Tim Henning, Tammy Young, Heather Miller

Absent: Sharon Diehl, Carrie Finley

Opening Prayer: Pastor Jennifer

Welcome Pastor Jennifer, introduction of consistory members, with brief background.

Margaret McFarlane @ 6:15 – “Sunday School season” 2024-2025

Committee Updates:

Christian Fellowship: No meeting in July; working with MIM to make “Christmas in July” for our nursing homes & shut-ins by providing them with a plateful of cookies.

Finance: Review financial statements – Tammy Young made a motion to approve, Barb Sprecher seconded; motion carried.

Maintenance: Resealing of the parking lot started, to be completed this week.

Members In Ministry: Continue to make visits, Pastor Jennifer will work with the ladies to get to know who we visit.

O and A (Love Thy Neighbor): Next meeting August 12th at 4:30 at Church. Tammy Young made a motion to approve O and A being in the Cow Chip Parade, Tim Henning seconded; motion carried.

New Sign: Update: Payment of ½ the cost needs to be paid \$3,070.00 before placement starts – Robin to cut check and get sent out.

Sunday School: See scoop

New Business:

Canon Copier: Five drums are worn (\$510.00 per drum) ink cartridges run \$100 apiece. Do we fix this one or should we purchase a smaller digital copier (cost roughly \$500). Heather Miller made a motion to purchase a smaller digital copier, Tammy Young seconded; motion carried.

Any other new business -

Motion to adjourn: Tammy Young made a motion to adjourn, Heather Miller seconded; meeting adjourned.

Closing Prayer: Pastor Jennifer

Next Meeting is for ***Thursday, August 15th at 6 pm***

WELCOME OUR NEW PASTOR

Pastor Jennifer Seach

If you haven't had an opportunity to meet with Pastor Jennifer, please stop into the church office and introduce yourself to her, perhaps chatter over coffee!



Our annual Drive-Thru Chicken Dinner will be held on Sunday, September 8th

Watch for sign-up sheet in the church Narthex!



First UCC will once again be hosting Life Line Screening in our church basement on Monday, September 23rd - if you are interested please see flyer in the Narthex.

MEMBERS IN MINISTRY

Members in Ministry and Christian Fellowship are packaging and delivering goodies/treat bags to members in the nursing homes and home bound the week of July 29th. Something special for summer from First United Church of Christ! We will be making visits and Pastor Jennifer will also be doing some visits.

STOCK THE SCHOOLS for AUGUST

August's Stock the Schools is collecting school supplies; **pencils, pens, colored pencils, washable markers, sharpies, folders, 3" binders, divider tabs for binders, and washable glue sticks. We are still accepting backpacks.** **Please be aware that the red collecting bin has been moved to the Washington Avenue church entrance area. You are encouraged to bring your donation with you to church on Sundays. If you have a contribution to drop off during the week you may still do so but will need to ring the doorbell for the Education Building so that someone can come and collect it."

SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

JUNE:

The Sunday School/ Confirmation families shared their thanks to Pastor Brad (We included these in our card to him). They especially enjoyed "*The Invisible String*".

JULY:

The Sunday School and Confirmation welcome Pastor Jennifer! We look forward to having you here at First United Church of Christ and getting to know you!

AUGUST:

Registration Forms for Sunday School and Confirmation will be mailed out. There is **NO** registration fee this year!



SEPTEMBER:

Classes begin on Sunday, September 8th. We look forward to seeing you!

Margaret McFarlane
Sunday School Superintendent

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

There was no meeting in July. We will be helping Members in Ministry bake and deliver some goodies to the homebound and nursing home folks, just to let them know we are thinking about them...Christmas in July! Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 13th at 9:30am.



MUSIC @ FIRST CHURCH!

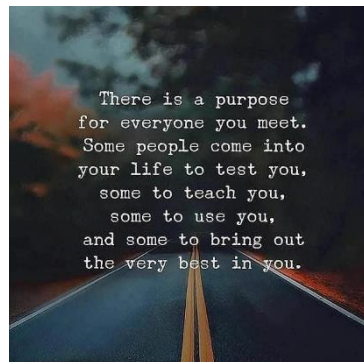


It is hard to believe, but August is already upon us and we're only 30+ days away from First Choir starting up again. I am hoping that all past members will return, and I also look forward to new members joining us. Our rehearsals are at 6:30 PM on Wednesdays starting on September 4th. If at all interested, come and join us for an hour of singing, laughter and socializing.

Denny Kahn
Music Director

LOVE THY NEIGHBOR

Our next meeting is scheduled for August 12th at 4:30 pm at Church. O and A requested having a float in the Cow Chip Parade, approved.



Radio Broadcast Sponsors for July and August

July 7th – Sponsored by *Sharon Diehl* in honor of family birthdays, *Kelsey, Owen, Curt, Nancy Diehl* and Sandy Schlender.

July 14th – Sponsored by *Jamie & Karen Wittwer* in memory of Jamie's Mom *Margaret Wittwer*

July 21st – Sponsored by *Emily Fuchs* in memory of the *Bill Kleinert family*

July 28th – Sponsored by *Tammie Huerth* in memory of her sister, *Kimberly Burkee's* birthday on July 31st

August 4th – Sponsored by *Jane Litscher* in memory of Jane's Dad, *Lloyd Gruber*

August 11th – Sponsored by *Tamara Straub* in honor of *Timothy Straub*

August 18th – Sponsored by *Graig & Laurie Kerl* in memory of Laurie's Grandpa *Verlyn Boettcher*

August 25th - OPEN

First UCC is so grateful for our Sunday Morning radio broadcast Sponsors...your kindness touches the lives of many; thank you for your generosity.



Memorials were received in memory of **Nettie Gander**



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|---------------------------|--|---------------------------|--|
| ♥ August 1 st | <i>Christine Hardke</i> | ♥ August 4 th | <i>Shane Steuber</i> |
| ♥ August 5 th | <i>Patsy Hering
Julie Perry</i> | ♥ August 10 th | <i>Forrest Hartmann</i> |
| ♥ August 11 th | <i>Kylie Baier</i> | ♥ August 13 th | <i>Tom Litscher</i> |
| ♥ August 14 th | <i>David McFarlane</i> | ♥ August 15 th | <i>Kelsey Marquardt</i> |
| ♥ August 16 th | <i>Kari Larsen
Tyler Jensen</i> | ♥ August 17 th | <i>Laurie Kerl
Brigitta Brickl</i> |
| ♥ August 18 th | <i>Beth Huerth
Gavin Larsen</i> | ♥ August 19 th | <i>Sam Sprecher</i> |
| ♥ August 23 rd | <i>Amanda Moseman</i> | ♥ August 25 th | <i>Mark Pierick</i> |
| ♥ August 27 th | <i>Peg Heidenreich
Lois Polachek</i> | ♥ August 28 th | <i>Scott Grimes</i> |
| | ♥ August 31 st | | <i>Cliff Lawton
Peggy Ganser
Logan Perry</i> |



We are so thankful for having found a New Pastor! Thanks again to our Search Committee for all their efforts and time spent to fill this position with someone we need and someone who needs us!

Thank you for the generosity of *Tom & Margaret McFarlane* and the volunteers that helped reseal our church parking lot: *Gary Schlender, Tim Henning, Steve Thurwachter, Herm Tschudy, Mark & Rhonda Pierick* and of course, *Chris Garcia*; ...the ***hands of Jesus*** were all over that project. ***Thank you all so much!***

We can never give enough recognition to all the behind-the-scenes people that make our church tic and toc 😊 a huge shout out for all who volunteer without hesitation. We are blessed, we are grateful, we couldn't do it without all of you....
