



William E. Kapp
Pastor

First United Church of Christ Inc.

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December 2015

Dear Members and Friends of First UCC,

“Reign of Christ” Sunday was celebrated in many congregations this past Sunday. Also referred to as “Christ the King” Sunday, it is the Church’s version of New Year’s Eve. The new church year, Year C in the three year cycle of readings from the Revised Common Lectionary, begins with the first Sunday in Advent this upcoming Sunday, November 29.

This special day is relatively new in the life of the Church. Pope Pius XI instituted the “Feast of the King” in 1925 during a time when Europe was in chaos. Respect for the Church was at an all-time low, inflation was running rampant, and the seeds of evil that would grow into World War II were being planted. This special Sunday was established to declare that Christ is the king of our lives; the goal of human history and the joy of all who hear.

Back in Jesus’ day, it was against the law to declare yourself a king. It was a penalty punishable by death. Jesus was questioned by Pilate in John 18:33-37 because people were saying that He was the King of the Jews. Jesus argued that His kingdom was not of this world, and that His kingdom was founded on truth whereas earthly kingdoms were founded on power.

What does it mean to say that Christ is the King of this world? It means that we live in an unfinished world made up of unfinished people. Even when we’re at our best, we’re not all that Christ intends us to be. Our duty as Christians is to represent Christ here on earth - to give food to the hungry, drink to the thirsty, clothing to the naked, and to visit those who are sick and lonely.

We are encouraged to remember that we are citizens of another realm, with a different ruler and a different kind of rule. Christ was a king, but not a typical king. Jesus was a servant king and the symbol of His kingdom is the cross. Just as Christ’s power was in the cross, the Church’s most effective witness is in service and sacrifice to those in need.

The challenge of ushering in Christ’s Kingdom is for each of us – to let God be God in our churches, in our neighborhoods, in our families, and in the world. If you want to find meaning, peace, and purpose in your life, then ask yourself, “What is Christ the King telling me to do with my life?”

With the Greatest of Hope!
Pastor Bill

Advent and Christmas 2015

Worship and Celebration

Opportunities

If You Look For Me At **Christmas**

You won't see a special star,
I'm no longer just in Bethlehem,
I'm right there where you are.
You may not be aware of Me amid
the celebrations,
you'll have to look beyond the
stores and all the decorations.
But, if you take a moment from
your list of things to do,
and listen to your heart, you'll find
I'm waiting there for you.
You're the one I want to be with,
you're the reason that I came,
and you'll find Me in the stillness
as I'm whispering your name.
Love, Jesus

Sunday, November 29 **First Sunday of Advent**

- * Lighting of Advent Candle
- * Caroling during the Sunday School hour
- * Grades 4, 5, and 6 paint windows for Christmas ~ 1:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 5

- * Sunday School Christmas Program Practice ~ 9:30 a.m.

Sunday, December 6 **Second Sunday of Advent**

- * Lighting of Advent Candles
- * First Choir Concert ~ both Worship Services
- * Sunday School birthday party for Jesus - during Sunday School
- * Sunday School White Gifts for H.E.L.P. ~ 10:30 Worship Service

Saturday, December 12

- * Sunday School Christmas Program Practice ~ 9:30 a.m.

Sunday, December 13 **Third Sunday of Advent**

- * Lighting of Advent Candles
- * Christmas Bake & Craft Sale
- * Sunday School Christmas Program ~ 10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Saturday, December 19

- * H.E.L.P. Toy Distribution ~ 8:00-9:30 a.m.

Sunday, December 20 **Fourth Sunday of Advent**

- * Lighting of Advent Candles

Thursday, December 24 **Christmas Eve**

- * Candlelight Christmas Eve Service With Communion ~ 7:00 p.m.

"For unto you is born this day in the City of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord."



Christmas Eve Communion

*Rick Breininger
Carol Hehenberger
Rita Larsen*

*Emily Fuchs
Rose Kleinert
Tom Litscher*

January 2016 Communion Schedule

8:00

January 3

10:30

*Galen & Pam Alwin
Herman & Debbie Tschudy*

*Amanda McFarlane
Tom McFarlane
Tim Homar
Bill Steckelberg*



“No Room! No Room!” the innkeeper cried, only a stable for the holy Christ Child. I ponder this thought as Christmas draws near, “Is there room in my heart for this Savior so dear?” Oh, I send bulging boxes to people in need, bake cookies for shut-ins and do other good deeds. I sing Christmas carols as I decorate the tree and wrap pretty presents for friends and family. But deep in MY heart where no one can see, I hear Jesus whisper, “Is there room for me?” Louise Tucker Jones

Sunday School News

By Margaret McFarlane



Thanks to all who sang on November 15. It was a great Sunday!



We raised \$241.00 for UNICEF. Thank you for helping with this worthy project! We beat our past collections!



Students will be scheduled to light candles before worship from now until the end of the Sunday School year. Please let me know if your child would like to do this but has not signed up.



We will be Christmas caroling at Maplewood Village and The Pines on Sunday, November 29, during the Sunday School hour. Everyone in the family is welcome to join in! We will have a short class period before our departure. Meet in the hall on the 2nd floor at 9:30.



The Sunday School choir will sing on December 6 for the First Choir

Concert at the 10:30 service.



The Sunday School hour has been extended until 10:20 through December 13. This will allow extra practice time for the Christmas program.



We will have program practice on Saturday, December 5 and 12, at 9:30 a.m. All students taking part in the Christmas Program need to be present. Please let me know if your child/children aren't participating in the program. Pre-K, K, 1st grade, and choir only students; will be dismissed immediately after they practice, at approximately 10:15. Practice will run until 11:30 for grades 2-6.



White Gift Sunday will be December 6. Students are asked to bring a gift (new or gently-used item) wrapped in white tissue for our H.E.L.P. project. They can bring the gift to the 10:30 service or to their Sunday School classroom.



The Christmas Program will be Sunday, December 13, at the 10:30 service.



There will be no Sunday School on December 20 and December 27. Classes resume on January 3.

Help Excite Little People This Holiday Season!



The H.E.L.P. project will be collecting good, used toys and items for teens through December 14. Donated items may be placed in the red sleigh, located inside the Washington Avenue entrance. If you have time to wash your donations, please mark your bags/boxes "clean" toys. Monetary donations are, also, welcome. We need "elves" to wash, repair, and organize the toys for distribution. Please consider helping with this all-church project on one or more of the following days:

Thursday, December 3, 10:00 a.m.-Noon
Friday, December 4, 10:00 a.m.-Noon
Tuesday, December 8, 10:00 a.m.-Noon
Friday, December 11, 10:00 a.m.-Noon
Tuesday, December 15, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Thursday, December 17, 10:00 a.m.-Noon
Friday, December 18, 10:00 a.m.-Noon

We work in the Sanctuary basement at the listed times. Questions? Call Margaret McFarlane at 643-6327.

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

Time for change. Deb Tschudy has chaired the Christian Fellowship Committee for several years and has been an outstanding leader...so organized and efficient and devoted. She has decided to step down, and we've all been reluctant to try and fill her shoes. Christian Fellowship's mission is to help organize many of the fellowship activities of our church including: Mother-Child Banquet, Lenten Soup & Chili

Supper, Sunday School & Church Picnic, Coffee Fellowships, Women's Sunday, helping with funeral luncheons, decorating our sanctuary, cleaning days for our church, and other events during the year. It's not an exclusive group. It would be great for others to come to meetings and offer their ideas and help.....and this includes men!

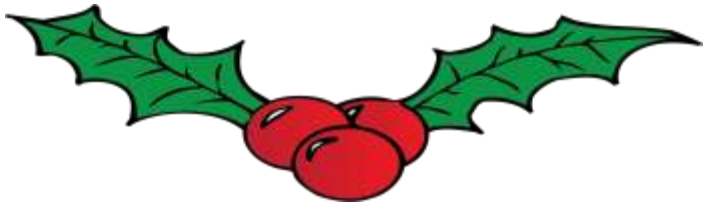
Meetings are at 6:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month, except December when we will meet and clean toys for HELP on December 15th at 6:30 p.m. So, welcome to all!! The next event will be a Christmas Craft & Bake Sale on Sunday, December 13th. Please, please come join us even if you can't make every meeting.

Dianna Woerpel,
Reluctant new chairperson

Lots of thank-you's need to go out to members of our congregation who spend so much time in contributing to our church. This month we would like to pay a special thank-you to Tammie Huerth and Kathy Johnson for their time and talents in decorating the sanctuary and entrance. After spending many years doing this with Lois Pieper, Gwen Walker, Sharon Rieke, Dorothy Kundert and many others, we know how much time it takes in researching, planning, preparing, making banners and then doing the decorating, all for the glory of God and our congregation. Many times husbands or others help, but Kathy and Tammie are the mainstays now for this service. So, give them a clap on the back or a note or a special thank you as you look around each season to the beauty of our sanctuary.

Dianna Woerpel





BLESSINGS & THANKS

FROM THE HEART!

Thank you for your prayers and cards while I was in the hospital after my recent surgery. A special thank you to Pastor Bill for visiting me and my family and holding us up in prayer during my hospital stay. I am blessed to have such a caring Church family.
Gratefully, Dave Bongard

Dear Friends at First United Church of Christ: Thank you to all of our family at First U.C.C. from the bottom of our hearts. All of your expressions of sympathy in the loss of my dad have been very comforting. We are so blessed to have all of you in our lives. **Shirlee & Dave Lendved & Family**



With Appreciation To

From Christian Fellowship:

★ A special thank you to the **McCaulley/Kapp** family for all the delicious goodies and hosting our coffee fellowship on Sunday, November 8. They even provided some fabulous smoothies!!! Thank you for all your time and treats!!! Blessings to you!!!

★ **Tom, Margaret, and Amanda McFarlane** for delivering the pies to St. Al's for the Community Thanksgiving Dinner.

★ Our members and friends who delivered Mobile Meals: **Duane & Dianna Woerpel, Dave & Shirlee Lendved, Liz Bongard, Peggy Ganser, Micki Cruse, Donna Cruse, Steve & Marcy Thurwachter, Renee Baker, and Becky Boss.**

★ All our elves who helped decorate the Church for Advent & Christmas on Saturday, November 28th.

★ **Dana Gee** for painting the outlines for the windows we decorate for Advent. Thanks to the **students and parents** who painted them on November 29.

★ **Debbie Tschudy, Rose Kleinert, Tammie Huerth, and Sue Herbrand** for cleaning the Church & Education Building while our custodian was recuperating from surgery.



And, as 2015 comes to a close, thank-you's, also, go out to:

★ **Tammie Huerth** for sharing her time and talents decorating the Church bulletin board every month.

★ All of our members who served as Liturgists, Ushers, Communion Servers, and on Church Committees in 2015.

★ Our **Radio Broadcast family** for sharing their time and talent with us while sitting in the Sound Room on Sunday mornings: **Tom Litscher and Herm Tschudy.**

With Appreciation To

(continued)

★ Our **Radio Broadcast sponsors** who make it possible for us to reach our many shut-ins in the community on Sunday morning.

★ Our **Christian Education Superintendent Margaret McFarlane & our Sunday School & Confirmation staff** who create a fun and loving atmosphere for our children to learn about Jesus.

★ **Laura Kapp** who hosted the First U.C.C. web site, once again, in 2015. Great job, Laura!

★ **Chris Garcia**, our Custodian, who keeps our Church and Education Building spic 'n span.

★ **Donna & Micki Cruse** for helping with the *SCOOP* each month.

★ Our members who shared their "gifts of music" with us throughout the year: **Dennis Kahn, Kristy Litscher, Sherri Roberts, First Choir members, our Sunday School Choir, and the Singing Sensations!**

★ **Everyone who served as a hostess** for the funeral luncheons - helping meet and greet the family/friends, serving food, and cleaning up.

★ **Tim, Sue, & Carrissa Herbrand and Jamie Wittwer** for mowing the church properties this summer.

★ Thank you to all of our **outdoor elves** who helped with raking and shoveling the church properties this fall and already this winter.

If you are able to help out with snow removal during the upcoming winter months, **please** sign up. The calendar is on the Usher's table.



This Christmas ...

Let's Give a Little Jesus,
a thoughtful word or deed,
An act of generosity
for someone who's in need.

Let's Give a Little Jesus
to everyone we meet,
The salesclerk or the server,
the person on the street.

Let's Give a Little Jesus,
that's what really counts,
Not what's spent or bought,
for whom, in what amounts.

Let's Give a Little Jesus
to everyone, large or small,
For Jesus, the Messiah, is the Greatest
Gift of all!

Lisa O. Enghelhardt



CONSISTORY MEETING
First United Church of Christ
November 19, 2015
6:30 p.m.

MINUTES

Present: Rose Kleinert (president),
Pastor Bill, Theresa Grimes, Debbie
Tschudy, Tom Litscher, Tim Herbrand,
Lyle Kuhnau, and Amanda McFarlane

OPENING PRAYER: Pastor Bill

PASTOR BILL'S REPORT: (1) Attended
Boundary Training October 23. (2) Salva-
tion Army Bell Ringing at Piggly Wiggly
and ACE all weekends in December.
December 12 is First UCC's turn.
(3) Fellowship night is going well.
(4) Youth Encounter February 19, 20, 21.

SECRETARIES REPORT: Motion to approve
by Theresa, second by Don, motion carried.

Financial Statements and Invoices:
Motion to approve by Debbie, second by
Theresa, motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

BUILDING & MAINTENANCE:

(1) Discussed water issue in basement
women's restroom. (2) McFarlanes' letting
us use a snow sweeper for the winter.
(3) Thanks to Tim Herbrand for cleaning
up the leaves in the church park.

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP: (1) Advent
candle lighting schedule being created.
(2) Church decorating - November 28; chili
lunch after. (3) Coffee Fellowship -
December 6. (4) Christmas Bake & Craft

sale - December 13. (5) Committee helps
wash toys for HELP on December 15.
(6) Looking at purchasing a new serving
cart. (7) Committee is donating money to
the local food pantry. (8) Dianna Woerpel
will serve as the new chair in 2016; thanks
to Debbie for all her years of service.

FINANCE: Committee meeting soon.

MEMBERS IN MINISTRY: On October 23rd,
a coffee hour was held to thank members.
Members are actively making visits to
homes, nursing homes, and hospitals.

SUNDAY SCHOOL/CHURCH YOUTH

PROGRAM: (1) Caroling - Sunday, Novem-
ber 29; going to Maplewood Village and
The Pines. All are welcome. Meet on the
2nd floor at 9:30. (2) Birthday party for
Jesus - December 6. (3) White gift Sunday
for HELP - December 6. (4) Sunday School
singing at the choir concert at 10:30 -
December 6. (5) Sunday School Christmas
Program - Sunday, December 13, at 10:30;
"Hope is Born". (6) No classes December
20 & 27. (7) Return to classes on January
3. (8) First Wednesday of every month is
Youth night. (9) 16 youth attending youth
retreat in February.

New Business: Newspaper Advertising
Christmas service.

NEXT CONSISTORY MEETING:
THURSDAY, JANUARY 21 at 6:30 p.m.

Motion to adjourn by Tim, seconded by Lyle,
motion carried.



*This season, as we prepare to celebrate
Christ's coming into our world, may we
await Him in silent prayer, recognize
Him in all we encounter, and welcome
Him into the dwelling place of our heart.*

Christian Fellowship Committee

November 10th Minutes

From Debbie Tschudy

In attendance: Pastor Bill, Charmaine Carter, Carol Hehenberger, Dorothy Kundert, Rita Larsen, Sherry Pieper, Sandy Schlender, Debbie Tschudy, and Dianna Woerpel,



Old Business

Advent candle lighters schedule – Sherry, Rita, Dianna, and Debbie working on schedule

New chair for 2016 – Dianna offered to try being Chair

November 8 – Coffee fellowship
Kapp/McCaulley family – delicious

New Business

November 28 – 9:00 church decorating – there will be a chili lunch afterward

December 6 – coffee fellowship – sign-up sheet is out

December 13 – Christmas craft and bake sale

December 15 – H.E.L.P. toy washing at 6:30 p.m. – Christian Fellowship Committee helping

Funerals – first point of contact for Cindy – none needed. There was a suggestion to put a current list of helpers in the kitchen so if someone isn't on there – they can contact Cindy to have her add them to the list.

Any other new business?

Basketweavers' baskets – uses—Dianna will look at these

Looking at purchasing a new serving cart – Dianna checked on this – Rita will check with McFarlane's and Culver's to see what they might have and at what price – item laid over until next meeting in January

Make a community donation to a local organization? We voted to make a donation of \$250.00 to our local food pantry; Debbie will call Cindy and have her cut a check to send them

Easter in 2016 is March 27 – so soup/chili supper will likely be early/mid-March?

There was a suggestion to have “committee” removed from our name – maybe we could

Pulpit exchange will be 4th or 5th Sunday in January and will have coffee fellowship then

Next Meeting – January 12, 2016 at 6:30

Miscellaneous church items or dates

December 6 – First Choir concert at 8:00 & 10:30 worship services

December 13 – Sunday School program at 10:30 worship service



2015 Charitable Giving Deadline

Please remember that gifts to the Church must be received by Noon on December 31st in order to get credit for that donation in 2015.



CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP SERVICE

Have you heard about our new worship service on Wednesday evenings? It is a casual, contemporary service at 5:30 that is fun, come-as-you-are and lasts 30-40 minutes. We are looking for people to help with the music. If you play an instrument or sing and like contemporary Christian music, come be a part of the team! We would love to put together a praise team or band—commitment level is your choice. Sign up for one service or many, solos or groups. Or just let us know you are interested!

Don't have time for dinner before coming to the service? A light supper is served in the church dining room from 5:00-5:30. No need to bring anything, just show up for fun fellowship and good food before the service.

For more info, contact:

Kristy at KristeenLitscher@outlook.com
or 643-6199, Theresa Grimes, Pastor
Bill or the church office.

Footprints In The Snow

One white and wintry Christmas Eve in a village long ago, a young child took a journey, leaving footprints in the snow. Clutched within her tiny hand, she carried a small tattered heart, fashioned from some scraps of cloth, wrapped in the charm of childlike art.

A manger scene of wood and straw was the child's destination. Her only Christmas wish, to join Christ's birthday celebration. She placed her precious handmade gift upon the straw with care; and before she turned to leave, whispered a simple prayer.

The villagers who stood nearby recall that night with awe, retelling every detail of the miracle they saw. A second set of footprints appeared next to the girl's own. They seemed to walk right by her side, to see her safely home.

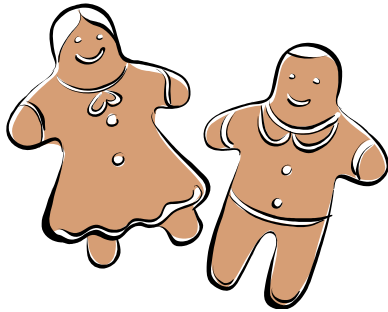
But there's no mystery in the presence of this unseen Friend ~ *for once God's touched your heart, you'll never walk alone again.*





Christmas Bake & Craft Sale

Sunday, December 13
(before and after Church Services)



We will hold our Annual Christmas Bake and Craft Sale on Sunday, December 13, before and after the worship services. What a joy that we have so much talent in our church – those that are excellent bakers and crafters and so willing to donate their time and talent to help our church! Those who bring crafts should have them pre-priced with your name on them. Please make sure your baked goods and crafts are here before the 8:00 a.m. worship service. The proceeds from this sale will go toward church weekly/monthly expenses.

Joyful cooking, baking, and crafting!



FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
504 Washington Avenue
Sauk City, WI 53583

DECEMBER 2015 SCOOP



"She brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn." Luke 2:7

- 2 *Youth Night: 6:30 p.m.
- 3 *H.E.L.P. Toy Washing ~ 10:00 a.m.-Noon
- 4 *H.E.L.P. Toy Washing ~ 10:00 a.m.-Noon
- 5 *Sunday School Christmas Program Practice ~ 9:30 a.m.
- 6 *2nd Sunday In Advent
 - *First Choir Concert ~ both worship services
 - *Coffee Fellowship between worship services
 - *Sunday School White Gifts ~ at the 10:30 worship service
- 7 *Sunday School Teachers' Staff Meeting ~ 6:30 p.m.
- 8 *H.E.L.P. Toy Washing ~ 10:00 a.m.-Noon
- 11 *H.E.L.P. Toy Washing ~ 10:00 a.m.-Noon
- 12 *Sunday School Christmas Program Practice ~ 9:30 a.m.
- 13 *3rd Sunday In Advent
 - *Christmas Bake & Craft Sale
 - *Sunday School Christmas Program ~ 10:30 worship service
- 15 *H.E.L.P. Toy Washing ~ 6:30-8:30 p.m.; Christian Fellowship Committee will be helping wash toys for H.E.L.P. this evening
- 17 *H.E.L.P. Toy Washing ~ 10:00 a.m.-Noon
- 18 *H.E.L.P. Toy Washing ~ 10:00 a.m.-Noon
- 19 *H.E.L.P. Toy Distribution ~ beginning at 8:00 a.m.
- 20 *4th Sunday in Advent
- 24 *Candlelight Christmas Eve Service ~ 7:00 p.m.

October Memorials

No Memorials were received in October.



Radio Broadcasts

We thank the November sponsors of our 8:00 a.m. Sunday worship service radio broadcasts:

Harland & Lorraine Hartmann, In honor and celebration of their 61st Wedding Anniversary.

Herman & Debbie Tschudy, In loving memory of Emil & Martha Tschudy; Dale & Anna Mae Dennis; and Peter & Dominic Giacomino.

Eunice Yanke, In loving memory of her dear friend, Harley Lichtenwalner.

Brian & Jennifer Cruse, In honor and celebration of their 20th Wedding Anniversary.

Evelyn Koenig, In loving memory of her husband, Harold Koenig.

♥ December Anniversaries In Our Church Family ♥

Frank & Georgia Selden, 53 years on December 8

Bev & Herb Feierabend, 62 years on December 19

Edward & Marlene Larsen, Sr., 63 years on December 20

Dave & Jane Litscher, 53 years on December 22

Dorothy & Lyle Kuhnau, 54 years on December 28

Ron & Roberta Lipka, 52 years on December 28

Greetings to all those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries in December!

We acknowledge 1st anniversaries; anniversaries ending in 5 or 0; and all over 50.

Please let us know if we missed you on the December birthday calendar!!

Ushers

<u>8:00</u>	<u>December</u>	<u>10:30</u>	<u>8:00</u>	<u>January 2016</u>	<u>10:30</u>
Cecy Haines		The Larsen Family	Nadene Litscher		Bill Steckelberg
David & Gloria Ramsey			Mark & Rhonda Pierick		Jamie & Karen Wittwer
Tina Wilkinson					
<u>Pastor Bill Kapp</u>	<u>Office Hours:</u>	Tuesday through Friday: 8:00-Noon			
	<u>Office phone:</u>	Saturday: 8:00-10:00 a.m. and by appointment			
	<u>E-mail:</u>	643-8387; <u>Home phone:</u> 370-2249			
<u>Office</u>	<u>Hours:</u>	bill_kapp@ucc-saukcity.org			
Cindy Baker	<u>Phone Number:</u>	Monday through Friday: 8:00 a.m.-Noon			
		643-8387; <u>E-mail:</u> office@ucc-saukcity.org			

Sunday Worship: 8:00 a.m. (broadcast over WRPQ 740AM & 99.7FM) & 10:30 a.m.

Adult Bible Study: 9:10-10:10 a.m.; **Confirmation:** 9:00-10:20 a.m.; **Sunday School:** 9:10-10:10 a.m. ~ ages 3 years & older.