



William E. Kapp
Pastor

First United Church of Christ Inc.

504 Washington Avenue • Sauk City, WI 53583

Phone: (608) 643-8387 • Fax (608) 643-2561

email: office@ucc-saukcity.org

<http://www.ucc-saukcity.org/>

DECEMBER 2017

Dear Members and Friends of First UCC,

A member of the church dropped off a book for me entitled, Blessed Are the Chickenhearted (and 99 Other Beatitudes for Everyday Living). I was inspired by the 100th Beatitude, which happens to be the title. Here's a paraphrase from that section:

Whoever came up with the word chickenhearted doesn't really know much about chickens. According to Webster's Dictionary, chickenhearted means "to be timid, afraid, fearful, or cowardly." In our modern language, we say that people are "chicken" when they lack courage. We have become accustomed to hearing from anyone backing off from a dangerous task: "I chickened out."

But chickens are not cowardly. There's the story of a hen who had fourteen eggs placed under her. She faithfully hatched all fourteen. It took patience, courage, and stamina for 21 days in order for all the chicks to hatch. One afternoon a few weeks later, a storm blew in as the hen was busy gathering all of her chicks into the chicken coop. The winds whipped up, trees were starting to blow down, and the air was filled with debris. Suddenly, a terrible gust picked up the chicken coop and blew it across the yard. You would expect the hen and the chicks to be blown all over by the violent winds. But the hen stood resolute, with her wings stretched out over her brood. No matter how strong the wind blew, the hen stood unmoving until the storm had passed.

This story reminds me of Jesus' lament for Jerusalem in Luke 13:34 where He says, "*Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!*"

Chickens are anything but cowardly. The person who came up with the term chickenhearted had a lot to learn about chickens. On the other hand, Jesus knew all about them, and He referenced chickens in his preaching, such as when Jesus predicted that Peter would deny him three times before the rooster crowed. His prediction came true, as Peter denied knowing Jesus for the third time in Matthew 26:74b and the rooster crowed.

Jesus also referenced chickens when he was talking about the end of the age in Mark 13:35-36, "*Therefore, keep awake – for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.*"

As we move into the liturgical season of Advent, we have an opportunity to prepare for the coming of Christ into our lives, both at Christmas and when the Lord arrives at His second coming. Will we be ready? Let us move forward in our journey of faith, not fearful or chickenhearted, but with a sense of excitement and expectation.

With the Greatest of Hope!
Pastor Bill

Advent & Christmas 2017

Worship and Celebration Opportunities



"Sweet Baby Jesus in his manger lies, as joyous anthems fill the nighttime skies. Sweet Baby Jesus, how he loves the world! He lives for us as a Shepherd, King of Kings, and Lord!"

Saturday, December 2

- * "Christmas with The Niskas" ~ 7:30-9:00p.m.

Sunday, December 3

First Sunday of Advent

- * Lighting of Advent Candle
- * Caroling during the Sunday School hour

Saturday, December 9

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

Sunday, December 10

Second Sunday of Advent

- * Lighting of Advent Candles
- * Christmas Music Festival
- * Birthday Party for Jesus - during the Sunday School hour
- * Sunday School White Gifts for H.E.L.P. ~ 10:30 Worship Service

Saturday, December 16

- * H.E.L.P. Toy Distribution ~ 8:00-9:30 a.m.
- * Sunday School Christmas Program Practice ~ 9:30 a.m.

Sunday, December 17

Third Sunday of Advent

- * Lighting of Advent Candles
- * Sunday School Christmas Program: 10:30 worship service
- * Christmas Bake & Craft Sale

Sunday, December 24

Fourth Sunday in Advent Christmas Eve

- * Worship Services: 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.
- * Candlelight Christmas Eve Service with Communion ~ 7:00 p.m.

2017 Charitable Giving Deadline: Please remember that gifts to the Church must be received by Noon on Friday, December 29th, in order to get credit for that donation in 2017. Thank you.

Sunday School News

By Margaret McFarlane



Thanks to all who sang on November 19. It was a great Sunday!



We raised \$230.00 for UNICEF. Thank you for helping with this worthy project! We beat our past collections!



Thank you for the wonderful donations on our Harvest Home Table.



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, December 3, 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 10 for the Christmas Music Festival at the 10:30 service.



The Sunday School hour has been extended until 10:20 through December 17. This will allow extra practice time for the Christmas program.



We will have program practice on Saturday, December 9 and 16, 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 10. 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 17, at the 10:30 service.



There will be no Sunday School on December 24th and 31st. Classes resume on January 7th.

Consistory Agenda


First United Church of Christ

Thursday November 16th, 2017

Attendance: Pastor Bill, Shirlee Lendved, Kurt Schultz, Mark Pierick, Theresa Grimes, Marcy Thurwachter, Don Larson, and Chris Logterman

Absent: Dean Dahnert and Tom Litscher

 Opening Prayer: Pastor Bill

 Finance Questions

- Meeting November 30 to discuss accounts and upcoming budget

 Pastor Bills Report

- See report in December Scoop
- 8 pledges for 2018 for a total of \$35,356.00 to date
- \$8600 remaining in Stain glass window account
- Mark move to approve, Theresa 2nd, motion passes

 Approval of financial statements minutes or invoices

- Marcy move to approve, Shirlee 2nd, motion passes

 Committee Reports and Updates:

- Building & Maintenance
 - (1) Received notice from Focus on Energy that no additional funds for lighting rebate as Menards is “instant discount retailer”
 - (2) November 20 tentative to finish last basement window
 - (3) Dean working on prioritized list of projects that need attention
 - (4) Bud Ederer, neighbor of church, raised concern over cistern on property and wear on the cover. We will look and assess.
 - (5) Fire inspection shed light on items that need improvement. We have 30 days to correct.
 - (6) Shirlee move to approve, Don 2nd, motion passes
- Christian Fellowship
 - (1) See minutes in December Scoop
 - (2) Theresa move to approve, Shirlee 2nd, motion passes

- Finance

(1) No report at this time.

○ Members in Ministry

(1) No meeting at this time.

○ Pastor-Parish Relations Committee

(1) Role of committee is to be a liaison between Pastor Bill and the congregation

(2) Met this month and meets as needed throughout the year.

○ Sunday School/Church Youth Program

(1) See Sunday School report in December Scoop

(2) Youth Group

- Collecting deposits for Youth Retreat February 9-11 at Kalahari in Wisconsin Dells. Discounted rate through November.

- Theresa is planning a Youth Group activity after holiday season.

(3) Mark move to approve, Chris 2nd, motion passes

○ Stewardship

(1) Review of role of congregation.

(2) Discuss time commitments for membership on the committee. Stagger lengths of time so that rotation of members keeps consistency in work.

(3) Don move to approve, Chris 2nd, motion passes

✚ Ongoing Business Update

○ Kitchen windows

- See Building & Maintenance note

✚ New Business Issues

○ Discussion of gun violence in our society

- ALICE (Alert, Inform, Lock-down, Counter, and Evacuate) training for general public and preparing self to cope and handle violent situation

- Program for congregation and 4K program discussed

- Kurt will check resources and scheduling, further discussion next meeting

○ Revisit conceal carry law and signage for “No Guns Allowed” at future meeting

○ Mark move to adjourn, Shirlee 2nd, motion passes

✚ Closing Prayer: Pastor Bill

✚ Next Consistory Meeting: December 21, 2017

Dear Consistory Members,

The parable of the ten bridesmaids in Matthew 25 reminds us of the importance of being prepared. Ten bridesmaids were waiting for the bridegroom to visit: five of them were wise and five were foolish. The wise bridesmaids had extra oil and wicks for their lamps, but the five foolish ones had not made extra provisions. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of the bridesmaids became drowsy and slept.

At midnight came the shout, “*Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.*” The bridesmaids quickly got up and prepared their lamps. The wise bridesmaids refilled their lamps with oil and they were burning bright. The foolish bridesmaids had run out of oil while they slept, and they had to go to the store to purchase more. While they were away, the bridegroom came by and the five bridesmaids who were prepared went on ahead with him into the banquet; and the door was shut. The foolish bridesmaids arrived to the party late, and they were not invited in.

As leaders of the church, we have an opportunity to make a positive impact in the life of First UCC. Our actions enhance the ministry of this faith community and the decisions we make as a group prepare this congregation for the challenges that lie ahead. Your ministry infuses oil into the lamp of First United Church of Christ. Thank you for your time and your efforts!

Bill’s November 2017 Consistory report:

*The *Feed My Starving Children* food pack event was held the last Thurs/Fri of October. 23 people from First UCC participated on Thursday 10/26 at Grand Avenue School – 5 adults and 18 youth.

*Stewardship Sunday is 11/19. The theme for this year is “Journey to Generosity”. I feel this year’s program is not as strong as it should be. I am hopeful that the Stewardship Committee, which is re-forming later this year, will give our church a shot in the arm when it comes to stewardship education. During my time in Sauk, First UCC finished in the red 2005-2011, four years in the black 2012-2015, and back to red 2016-2017. I believe that stewardship education and pledging are crucial moving forward.

*I’ve had two funerals in the past month: Lucile Gasner and Kathleen Griffin.

*I am coordinating the Salvation Army Bell Ringing schedule for the Sauk Prairie Community. First UCC is slated to ring at the Piggly Wiggly from 9am – 5pm Friday 12/15 and Saturday 12/16.

*The Niskas will perform at First UCC 12/2 at 7:30pm. Sign-up sheets have been put out to seek people to help with hospitality, tickets, and cleanup/setup of the chancel space.

*Youth Retreat at the Kalahari Resort February 9-11, 2018. We ask that interested youth get their registration info/\$ to me by 11/26 in order for our group to qualify for the early bird rate.

*I will be participating in the ecumenical community-wide Thanksgiving Eve Service 11/22 at 7pm. The worship service will be held @ St. John’s Lutheran Church PdS.

*\$4636 currently sits in the stained glass window account. In addition, a \$4000 memorial was recently given to church and the donating family thought that the stained glass window project would be a great place to put it.



Christmas Bake & Craft Sale

*Sunday, December 17, at First U.C.C.
(Before and after Church Services)*

We will hold our Annual Christmas Bake & Craft Sale on Sunday, December 17, 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! Please pre-price your crafts and baked goods and put 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 to the local schools to pay for lunches/breakfast for those students in need.



*God bless your hearts and hands in your
cooking, baking, and crafting!*

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 12. 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:

- Friday, December 1, 10:00 a.m.-Noon
- Tuesday, December 5, 10:00 a.m.-Noon
- Thursday, December 7, 10:00 a.m.-Noon
- Tuesday, December 12, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- Thursday, December 14, 10:00 a.m.-Noon
- Friday, December 15, 10:00 a.m.-Noon



This Christmas ...

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

Family Fun Night

This month's Family Fun Night is December 7th from 5:00-7:00 p.m. You can come and go as you please. Anyone under 18 should have an adult attending with them. Hope to see you on the 7th!



This month's *GriefShare* support meetings are December 5th and 19th at 6:30 p.m. and December 6th and 20th at 10:00 a.m. Everyone in the community is welcomed.



Twelve Step Bible Study

This month's Twelve Step Bible Study group will meet on Thursday, the 28th, at 6:30 p.m.



BLESSINGS & THANKS

FROM THE HEART!

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

★ Thank you to all the "bakers" who made pies for the Community Thanksgiving Dinner: **Peggy Ganser, Patsy Hering, Dianna Woerpel, Jan Lawton, Carol Hehenberger, Marcy Thurwachter, Emily Fuchs, Shirlee Lendved, and Dorothy Kundert.**

★ Thank you to our members who delivered Mobile Meals: **Lyle & Dorothy Kuhnu, Peggy Ganser, Liz Bongard, Donna Cruse, Micki Cruse, Mick Cruse, Jeff Engelbretson & Cathy Brewer, Duane & Dianna Woerpel, Steve & Marcy Thurwachter, Cliff & Jan Lawton, and Debbie Tschudy.**

★ Thank you to all our elves who helped decorate the Church for Advent & Christmas on Saturday, November 25.

And, as 2017 comes to a close, thank-you's, also, go out to:

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

★ **Tammie Huerth and Kathy Johnson** for their time and artistry in decorating the Sanctuary and entrance through the year.

★ **All of our members** who served as Liturgists, Ushers, Communion Servers, and on Church Committees in 2017.

★ **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.**

★ **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 2017. Great job, Laura!

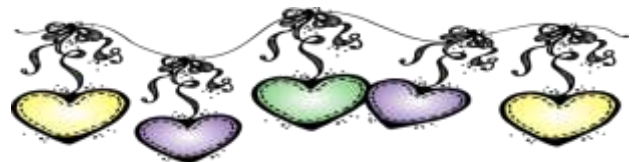
★ **Chris Garcia**, our Custodian, who keeps our Church and Education Building spic 'n span.

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

★ **Our members who shared their "gifts of music"** with us throughout the year.

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

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





Communion Servers

*Rick Breininger
Rose Kleinert
Tom Litscher*

*Emily Fuchs
Rita Larsen
Debbie Tschudy*

January 2018 Communion Schedule

8:00 January 7 10:30

*Galen & Pam Alwin
Herman & Debbie Tschudy*

*Tom McFarlane
Amanda Moseman
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

October Memorials

Memorials were received in November:

James O. & Eunice C. Becker
for Stained Glass Windows

Lucile Gasner



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 63rd Wedding Anniversary.

Jamie & Karen Wittwer, in loving memory of Jamie's grandparents', Ernest & Alice Wittwer, wedding anniversary.



December Anniversaries In Our Church Family



Frank & Georgia Selden, 54 years on December 8

Bev & Herb Feierabend, 63 years on December 19

Edward & Marlene Larsen, Sr., 64 years on December 20

Dorothy & Lyle Kuhnau, 55 years on December 28

Ron & Roberta Lipka, 53 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 2017</u>	<u>10:30</u>
David & Gloria Ramsey		Tim & Sue Herbrand	Nadene Litscher		Bill Steckelberg
Tina Wilkinson			Mark & Rhonda Pierick		Jamie & Karen Wittwer

Pastor Bill Kapp

Office Hours:

Tuesday through Friday: 9:00-Noon

Saturday: 9:30-11:00 a.m. and by appointment

Office phone:

643-8387; Home phone: 370-2249

E-mail:

bill_kapp@ucc-saukcity.org

Office

Hours:

Monday through Friday: 9:00 a.m.-Noon

Cindy Baker

Phone Number:

643-8387; E-mail: office@ucc-saukcity.org



FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

504 Washington Avenue
Sauk City, WI 53583

DECEMBER 2017



"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

- 1 *H.E.L.P. Toy Washing ~ 10:00 a.m.-Noon
- 2 ***"Christmas with the Niskas"**: 7:30-9:00 p.m.
- 3 ***1st Sunday in Advent**
*Sunday School Caroling
- 4 * Sunday School Teachers' Staff Meeting ~ 6:30 p.m.
- 5 *H.E.L.P. Toy Washing ~ 10:00 a.m.-Noon
- 7 *H.E.L.P. Toy Washing ~ 10:00 a.m.-Noon
*Family Fun Night: 5:00-7:00 p.m.
- 9 *Sunday School Christmas Program Practice ~ 9:30 a.m.
- 10 ***2nd Sunday in Advent**
*Christmas Music Festival ~ both worship services
*Coffee Fellowship
*Sunday School White Gifts ~ at the 10:30 worship service
*Birthday Party for Jesus ~ during Sunday School hour
- 12 *H.E.L.P. Toy Washing ~ 6:30-8:30 p.m. Christian Fellowship will be helping wash toys for H.E.L.P. this evening.
- 14 *H.E.L.P. Toy Washing ~ 10:00 a.m.-Noon
- 15 *H.E.L.P. Toy Washing ~ 10:00 a.m.-Noon
- 16 *H.E.L.P. Toy Distribution ~ 8:00-9:30 a.m.
*Sunday School Christmas Program Practice ~ 9:30 a.m.
- 17 ***3rd Sunday in Advent**
*Sunday School Christmas Program ~ 10:30 worship service
*Christmas Bake & Craft Sale
- 21 *Consistory: 6:30 p.m.
- 24 ***4th Sunday in Advent**
*Morning Worship Services: 8:00 and 10:30
*Candlelight Christmas Eve Service with Communion ~ 7:00 p.m.
- 28 *12 Step Bible Study: 6:30 p.m.

