

First United Church of Christ
504 Washington Avenue
Sauk City, WI 53583
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



THE SCOOP DECEMBER 2023

Find us:

- www.ucc-saukcity.org
- firstuccsauk.churchtrac.com • For the Youtube channel type:
“ [First UCC Sauk City Youtube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...) ” 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)

This Month at First Church...

December 10th	Sunday School Program 9am
December 10th	Coffee Fellowship
December 10th	Craft & Bake Sale
December 24th	Candlelight Service 5:30pm

Merry Christmas

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

And Mary said,
‘My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.’

Mary’s “Magnificat” from Luke 1:46-55

Mary can see so clearly what God wants for the world that it appears to her to be already accomplished. Love will win. She knows that in her heart, and so she proclaims it as an accomplished fact. In her faithful eyes there was no difference between what God wants for the world and what God has already done for the world. She trusted God’s word that much.

And here’s the thing—this is where Advent comes home to you and me: this prophetic eyesight is not just for the prophets. It’s for us, too. It is God’s gift to us, enabling us to see our own way forward—however troubled and uncertain our own tomorrows may seem.

By faith we too can see in the dark. And in faith we can speak out, like Mary did, —against the injustice and hurt all around us. We can speak her words of promise—that another world is possible; that, indeed, this world is already here.

That’s what Advent is all about, you see: seeing what isn’t yet here. Or to put it better, Advent is all about seeing what is here but is only visible to the eyes of faith; only visible to the heart tuned to God’s promise.

Bobby Kennedy, one of the prophets of the last century, was maybe thinking of Mary’s song when he said this: “There are those who look at things the way they are, and ask why? I dream of things that never were, and ask why not?”

Why not, indeed?

Have a blessed Advent, everybody.

Happy Holidays

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. 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.



All is Calm +
All is Bright

First UCC Christmas Calendar

**There will be NO MORNING
SERVICE Sunday, December 24th**
(A RADIO BROADCAST will be provided)

We invite you to listen in

**Our Beautiful Candlelight Service
will be held at 5:30 PM**
(in person or on YouTube)

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

CONSISTORY

Meeting Minutes, Thursday, November 16, 2023

Attending: Carrie Finley, Tammy Young, Peggy Ganser, Barb Sprecher, Tim Henning, and Rose Kleinert.

Committee Updates:

Christian Fellowship:

- ✓ Gathered on November 8th for coffee and donuts; discussion on craft and bake sale scheduled for December 10th (before and after service). Anyone can supply extra cookies that will be delivered to our assistant living, nursing homes, and shut ins.
- ✓ Calls will be made to members for interest in helping to supply coffee fellowship and get more people involved (coffee fellowship has been well attended and liked by all this year).
- ✓ Will be discussing ideas for some type of fellowship event during the winter months.
- ✓ Meetings will be determined on a month-to-month basis (due to a few of our members being in the South for the colder weather).

Financing:

- ✓ Working on 2024 Church budget.

Maintenance:

- ✓ Roofing repairs have been completed.

Members In Ministry:

- ✓ Met on Tuesday, November 8th, making calls and visits.

Love Thy Neighbor (an umbrella under ONA):

- ✓ Raised \$1,724.04 selling John Joseph Coffee for Sauk Prairie School.

New Sign: bids and designs coming to the congregation soon.

Sunday School: attached

New Business


Discussed snow removal and options.


There will be **no** in person service on the morning of Christmas Eve (a radio broadcast will be available for those wanting to listen). Service will be held at 5:30 pm and can also be watched on YouTube.


Motion to adjourn: Tammy made motion to adjourn, Barb seconded.

Next meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, January 18th at 6:00 pm.**

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS


 Many thanks to all who donated items for our Harvest Home Table. Our donations will help restock the shelves at the SP Food Pantry after Thanksgiving.

 We only had 4 students on November 5, when we made our cards for Veterans and stain glass window craft. Even though it was a small group, it was great to have the time together.

 December 3 is our next activity Sunday. We will be washing items for the H.E.L.P. Project and practicing. No Confirmation class this day, so Confirmation students are invited to come help with Sunday School.

 We will have practice for the Christmas Program on Saturday, December 9, at 9:00 a.m.

The **Christmas Program** will be on Sunday, December 10, 9:00 a.m. Service

 We are asking those who are interested to bring a gift for H.E.L.P. on December 10. This can be a gently used item for children/ teens or you can purchase something new. You can bring one gift per family or per SS child. Please wrap the item/items in white tissue paper (it doesn't need to be fancy). There will be a time during the Christmas Program for these white gifts to be brought forward.



On December 17, we will have our regular SS classes and a birthday party for Jesus.



- There is **NO Sunday School or Confirmation on December 24 and December 31**. We will resume Sunday School on January 7 with a large group activity. Confirmation students are welcome to join us and help.
 - Watch for upcoming information on our Annual Bowling Bash!

Margaret McFarlane

IN LOVING ♥
Memory

Memorials were given in memory of

Pat Boehmer and Dorothy Molony

H.E.L.P. Project

We are still collecting gently used toys and items for teens to distribute to those in need within our school district. Our collection date goes through December 10. New items and monetary donations are also accepted. We need "elves" to help wash, repair, and organize items. Your support is greatly appreciated in making this mission a success, again this holiday season!

December Cleaning Schedule:

- **Monday, Dec. 4; 6:30-8:00 p.m.**
- **Thursday, Dec. 7; Quartz Insurance**
- **Friday, Dec. 8; 10:00 a.m.-Noon**
- **Monday, Dec. 11; 1:00-3:00 p.m.**
- **Tuesday, Dec. 12; 6:30-8:00 p.m.**
- **Thursday, Dec. 14; 10:00 a.m.-Noon**
- **Friday, Dec. 15; 0:00 a.m.-Noon**
- **Saturday, December 16; Distribution 8:00 a.m.**

Pick one or join us for as many as you are able.

Please park across the street or in the church parking lot, if it is a school day. The buses pull up in front of the Education building.

ADVENT



Advent candle lighting/readers - this is in place of the Call to Worship, you can announce the song after the prayer - Title is "Shine on us" and sung to tune of NCH #345 which is Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

- **November 26th** - First Sunday of Advent - Herm and Debbie Tschudy
- **December 3rd** - Second Sunday of Advent - Gray family
- **December 10th** - Third Sunday of Advent - Homar family
- **December 17th** - Fourth Sunday of Advent - Sherri Roberts family
- **December 24th** - Christmas Eve service - Brigitta Brickl family

Thank you for your willingness to help us out this season! Let me know if you have any questions. Debbie

STEWARDSHIP

Our fall stewardship message usually emphasizes giving, specifically financial support for our church. This year's message is focusing on another important part of stewardship; volunteerism. Stephen Goldsmith of Harvard's Kennedy School of Government states "Volunteerism is a direct indicator of people feeling connected to their communities. They volunteer because they see it as an important way to help their fellow Americans."

Volunteering can be divided into two distinct formats: Formal, which is regular commitment to daily, weekly, or monthly engagement and Sporadic, which is occasional commitment. Since the peak of formal volunteerism in 2005, Americans have moved towards more sporadic service. The Covid pandemic further caused a downturn in volunteering. As we come out of the pandemic many organizations that rely on volunteers continue to struggle. Right here in Sauk Prairie, Fire on the River, the Cow Chip Festival, other community events, and service organizations are desperately looking for volunteers.

How does this relate to stewardship here at First United Church of Christ?

Individuals with an affiliation with a religious group are more likely to volunteer in the community. Religion is considered a strong predictor for volunteering. Just think of all the opportunities we, as members of First UCC, have available to us. Meals on Wheels, baking pies for the community Thanksgiving dinner, H.E.L.P., and many others.

The Bible says:

1 Peter 4:10. *"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."*

When opportunities to volunteer arise, please consider sharing your time and talents. Not only will you be doing God's work, but you will experience many benefits which include building connections to others, a sense of purpose, positivity, and other beneficial outcomes.

STOCK THE SCHOOLS for DECEMBER

Jars of peanut butter & jelly, and full-size bottle of shampoo & conditioner.

MEMBERS IN MINISTRY

Members in Ministry continue to make visits to members in nursing homes and homebound. We will help Christian Fellowship deliver Christmas treats to those special members the week of December 10th. Call the church office if you would like to help make some of these special treats at 608-643-8387. Thank you.

MUSIC @ FIRST CHURCH

Here we are already into Advent with Christmas just weeks away! First Choir will provide music to the glory of God on Dec. 3rd, Dec. 17th and on Christmas Eve. Rehearsals have been moved to 6:30 PM on Wednesdays going forward.



Remember this and it goes to both the choir and the congregation:

We do not sing because we need “a warm-up before the sermon.”

We don't sing because people need time to get to their seats.

We do not sing because we need to be entertained.

We sing because God is good!

We sing because God is worthy!

We sing because it is a communal act of unity in
which we declare the glory of God, the gravity of
sin and the grandeur of grace!

Yes - Sing so God can hear you!!!!

Radio Broadcast Sponsors for December

December 3rd - Emily Fuchs/Rose Kleinert in memory of *Lyle & David Kleinert* and *Ellen Henning*

December 10th – Lois Pieper in memory of *Susan Joy Pieper*'s birthday on December 12th

December 17th – Mark & Rhonda Pierick in memory of *Diane Richards*, Mom, Grandma, great Grandma

December 24th – Craig & Laurie Kerl in honor of Laurie's grandparents *Verlyn & Hazel Boettcher*

December 29th – Steve & Marcy Thurwachter in memory of Marcy's Dad *Merton Moely*'s birthday on

December 28th

LOVE THY NEIGHBOR

Attending: Pastor Brad, Shirlee Lendved, Sherri Roberts, Christy Kinnamon and Barb Sprecher.

Met November 14th at the Sauk Prairie High School with the High School GSA and their advisor Kurt Rossbach.

The kids shared with us they met three times a week during the school season and have leadership type meetings after school. One made the design for last year's Sauk Prairie Pride shirts, which is one way they raise funds.

Their wish was that adults would listen to them not preach. None of them have good support from a religious source.

We presented them with the coffee check for \$1,724.04. John Brennan was present and talked about how important this sale was to him and how it has affected his business. The group was very happy with the check and are thinking of ways to use it.

When asked if they would feel comfortable coming to church and talking, they suggested to make a video to share.

It was a great meeting.



CHURCH CRAFT AND BAKE SALE



Reminder... the craft and bake sale is on December 10th ~ please make sure your items are priced and at the church by 8:00 am or previously. We plan on beginning at 8:30 until the time of service and resume after service with coffee fellowship. If you can set a few samples aside, we will put them out to share with coffee.

Please consider making a dozen cookies to be delivered on Monday, December 11th by some of our members we will be delivering treats to our assisted living and nursing home residents, along with our faithful radio listeners that are homebound.



**Bell Ringers
Needed!**

The season of bell ringing is close upon us...dates, time, location is coming soon!

WE
appreciate
YOU

Thank you to everyone that donated pies for the Community Thanksgiving meal. We donated 21 pies which is wonderful! It is a comfort knowing we helped to participate in giving so many warm meals and dessert on Thanksgiving Day. Blessings to you all!



Special Thanks to Mission Possible for replacing our AED for the church.....

See AED Procedures near the machine by the usher's table.



*May you have the gift of faith, the blessing of hope and the peace of
His love at Christmas and always!*

December 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Dustin Sliter Bill Steckelberg	2
3 Brenna Diehl	4 Dan Ambort Jim Becker Bev Feirabend	5 Dennis Kahn	6 Tim Luchsinger	7 Jodi Kleist	8 Jan Lawton Russell Pieper	9
10	11	12	13	14	15 Gary Dickerson Jane Schara	16
17 Kloe Granger	18	19 Margaret McFarlane	20 Calista Brickl Cameron Brickl	21	22 Rose Kleinert	23
24	25	26	27	28 Clara Shuck	29 Samantha Huerth	30
31	Happy Anniversary					



*Frank & Georgia Selden 61 years December 8th
Lyle & Dorothy Kuhnau 62 years December 28th*

